



HEARTSTOPPER

VOLUME 1

ALICE OSEMAN



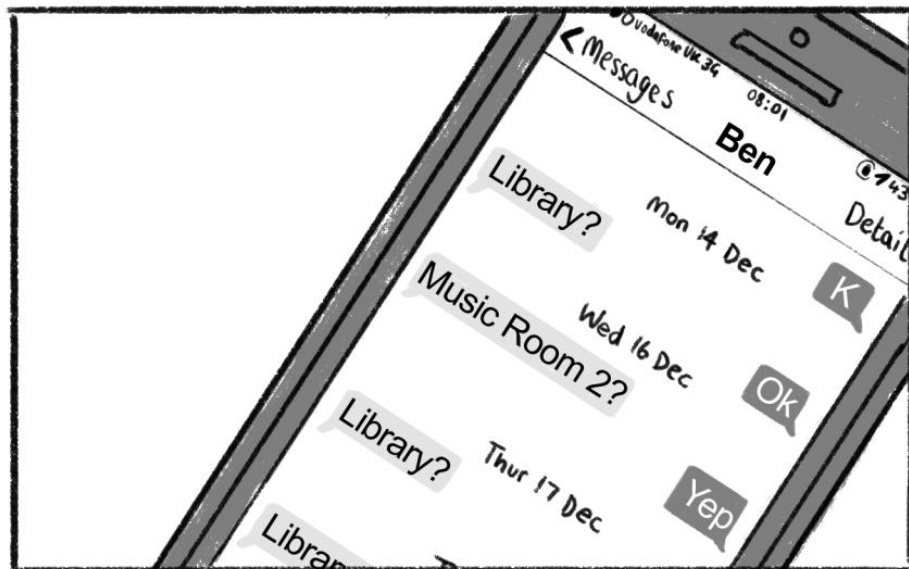


1. MEET



1

January



TICK



TICK



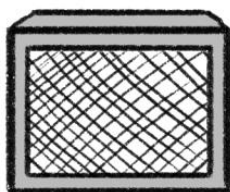
TICK



TICK

TICK





beep

beep

beep

Charlie, that was only the first bell-

Yeah... I've gotta go

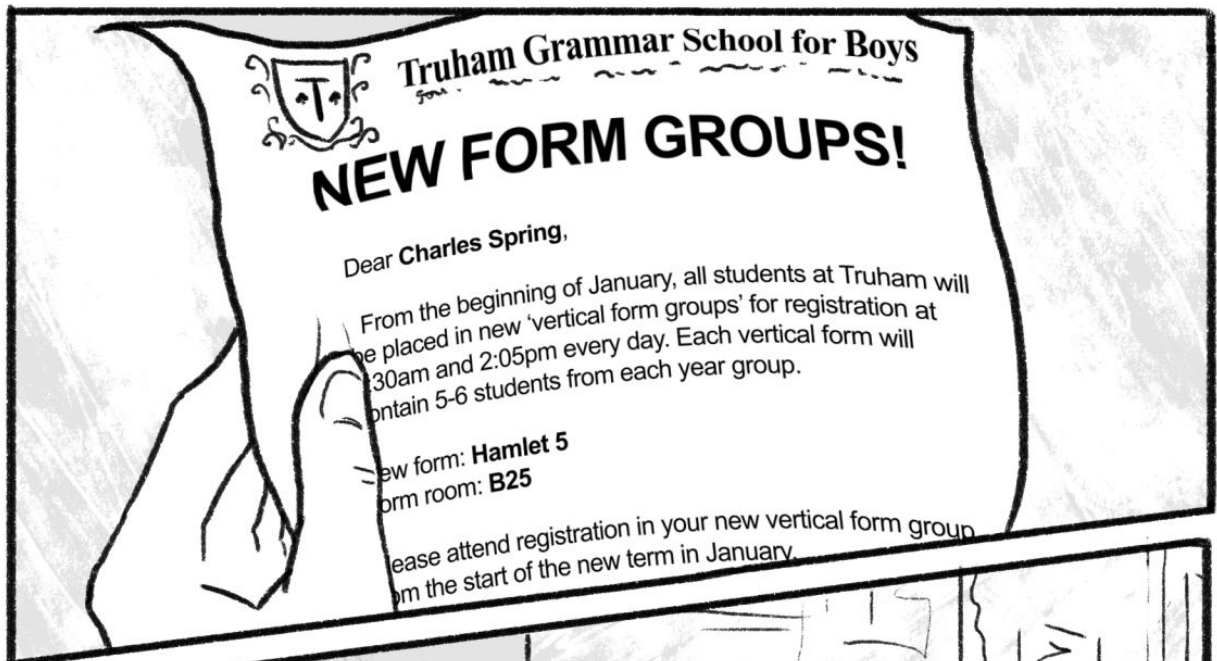
Why??

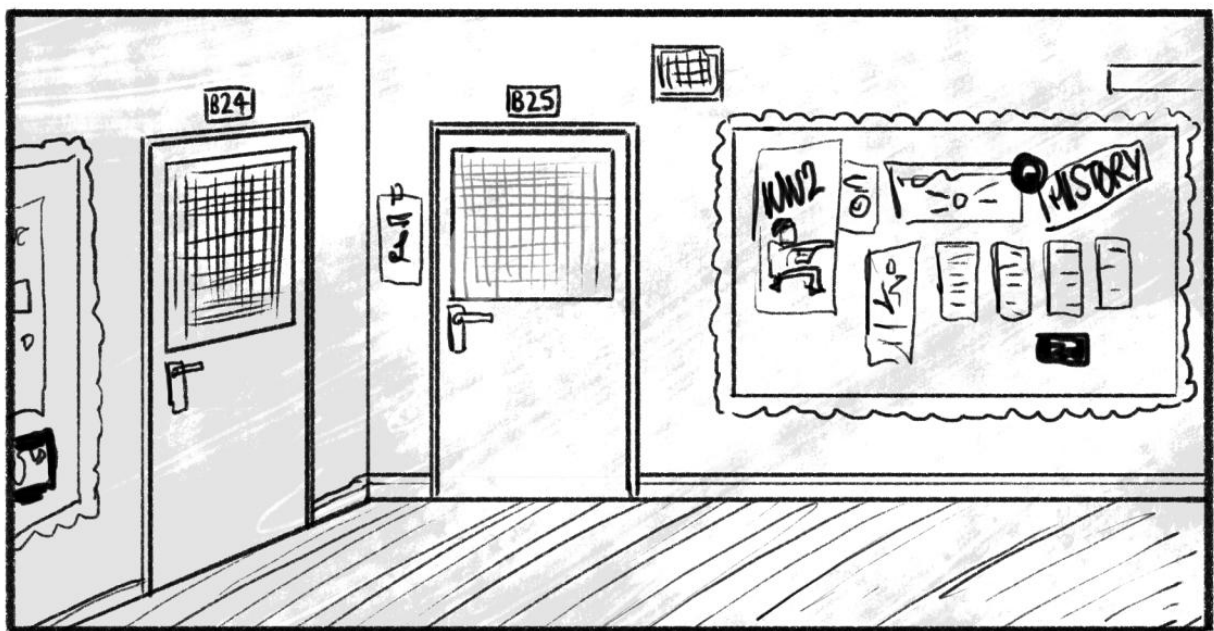
Sorry

BEN

CHARLIE

















A COMIC BY
ALICE
OSEMAN









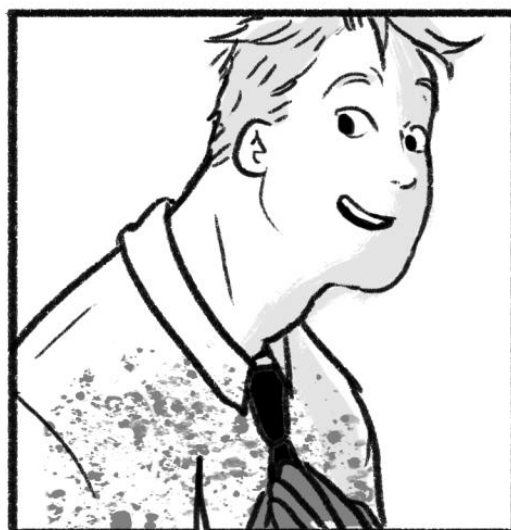
Er...
Charlie?







Hopefully I'll miss some
of first period...
I have double science

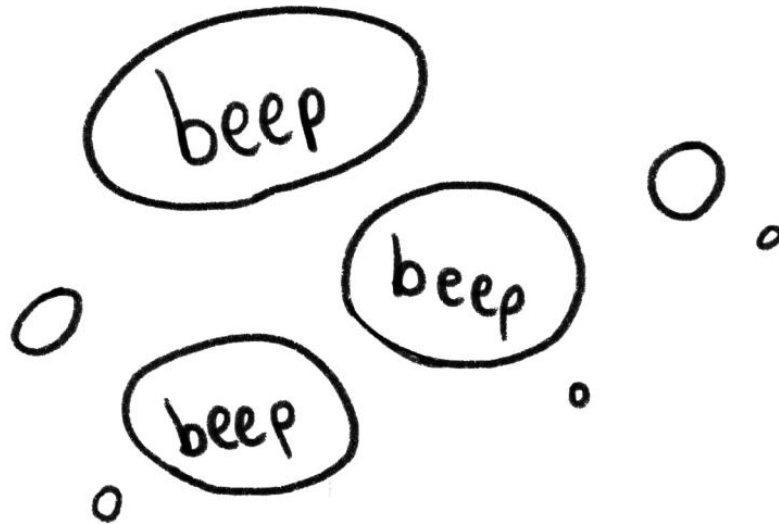


Ugh! Who
d'you have?



17













You're friends
with Nick
Nelson now?



REALLY?



Er... yeah?

TAO XU (FRIEND)



But he's one of the rugby lads! He's friends with Harry Greene, for God's sake

So? Nick's really nice!



COME ON. He's a fucking chav. He calls everyone 'mate' and probably throws food at people on the bus.

...he doesn't call me 'mate', though





You
have
a
crush
on
him

WHAT.



That's not-
I'm- I don't
just fall for
any boy who's
nice to me

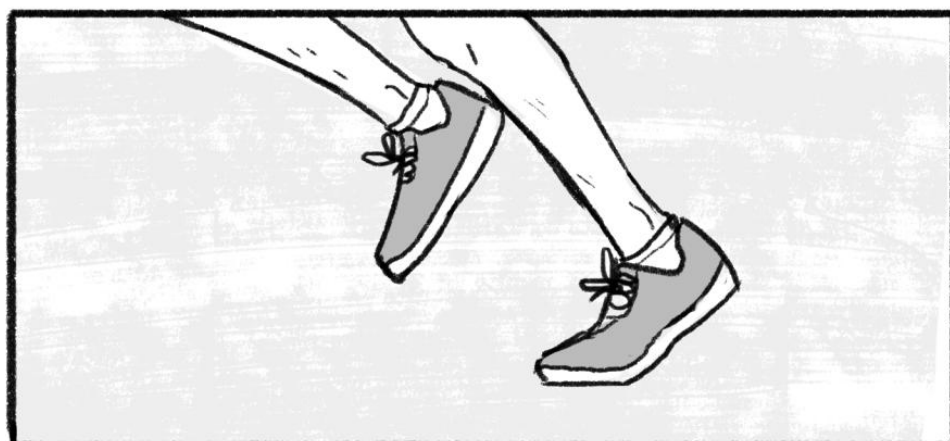
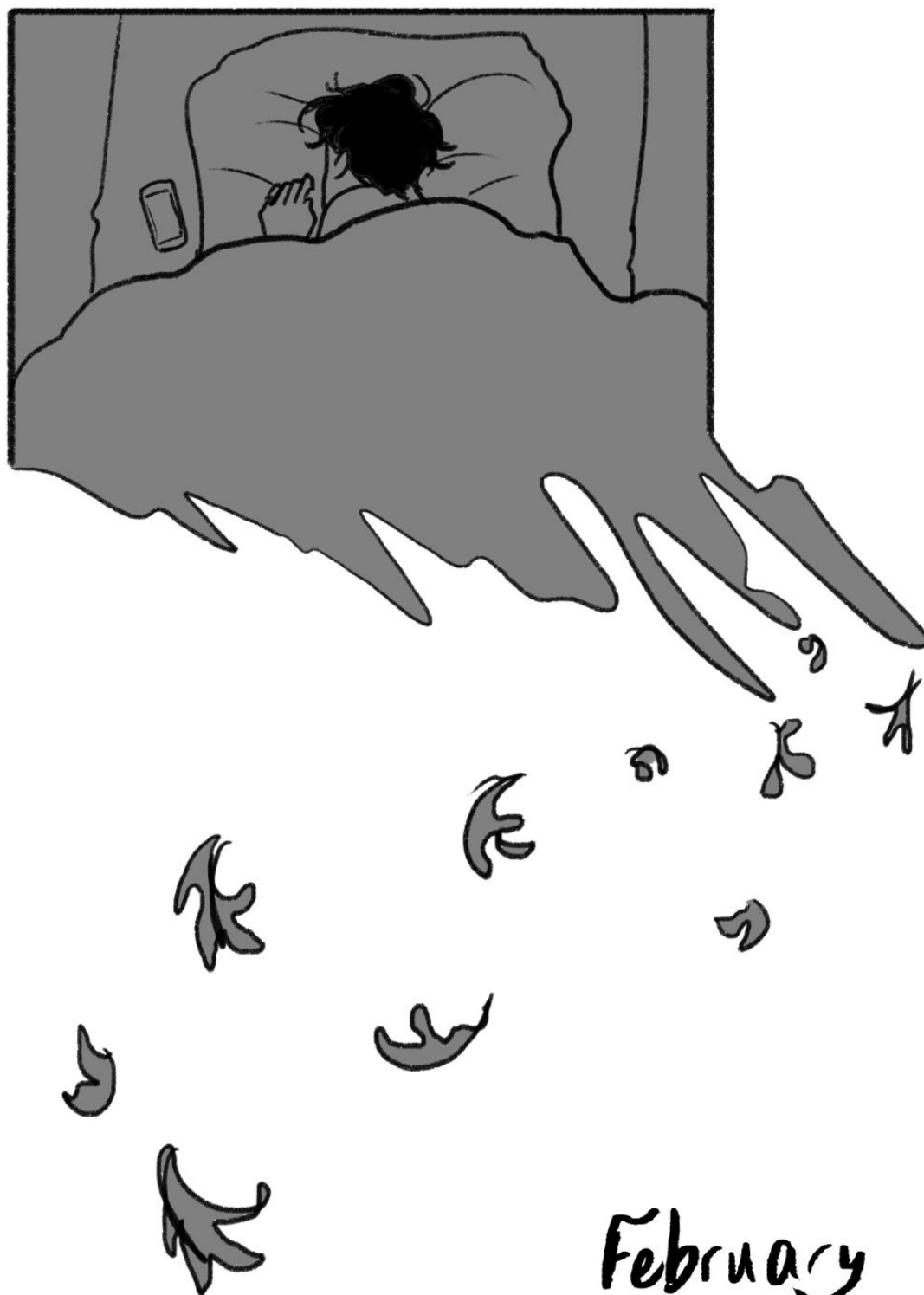


..haha..









Monday 1st February. 10H/11H P.E. (Physical Education)





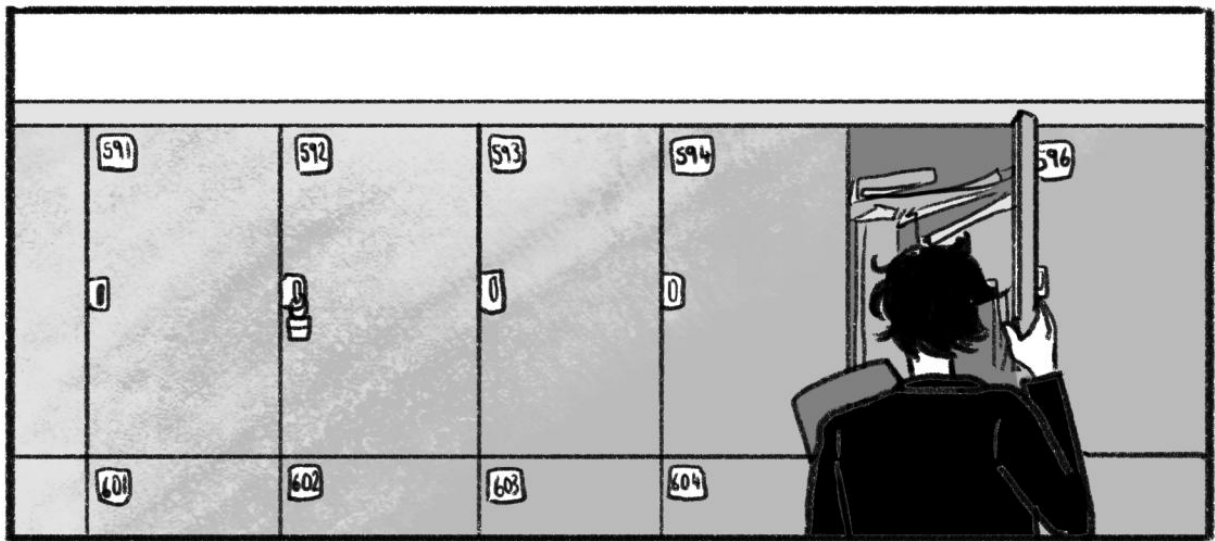


NICK!

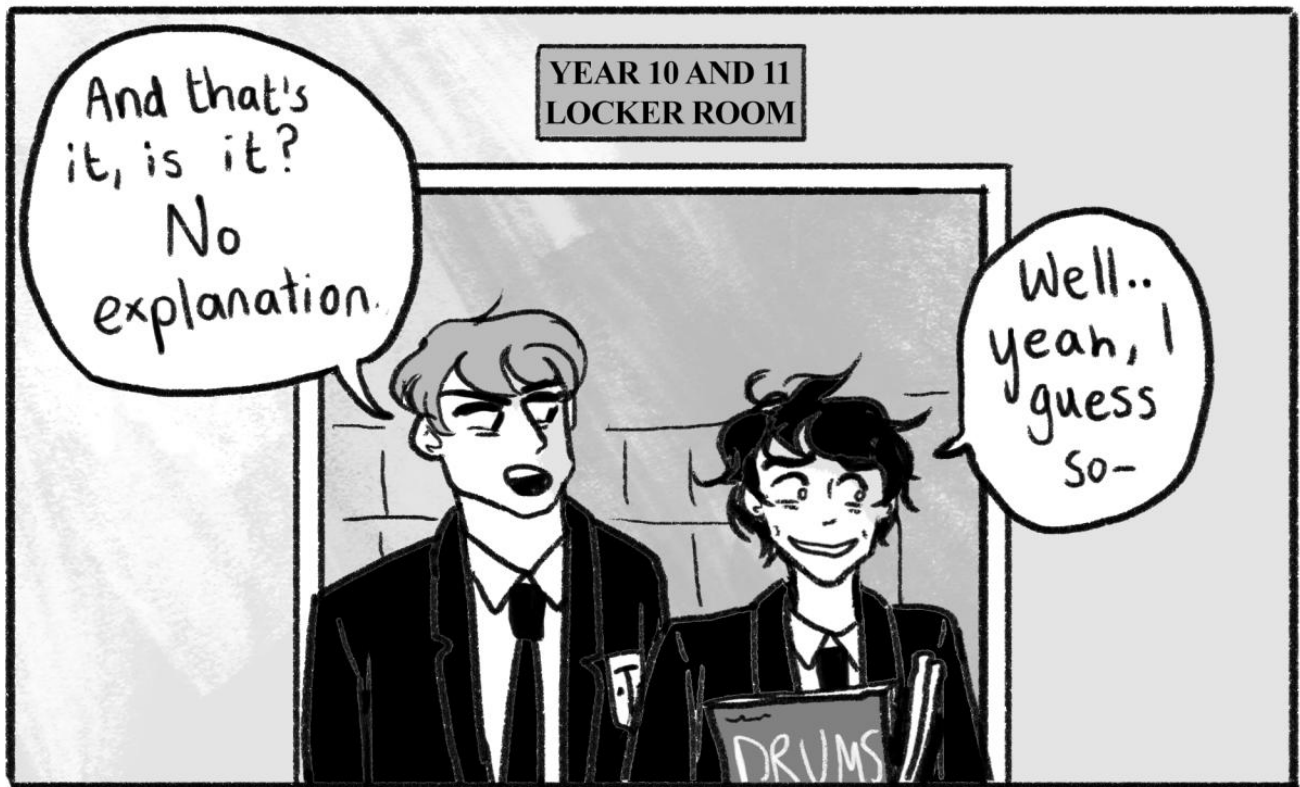












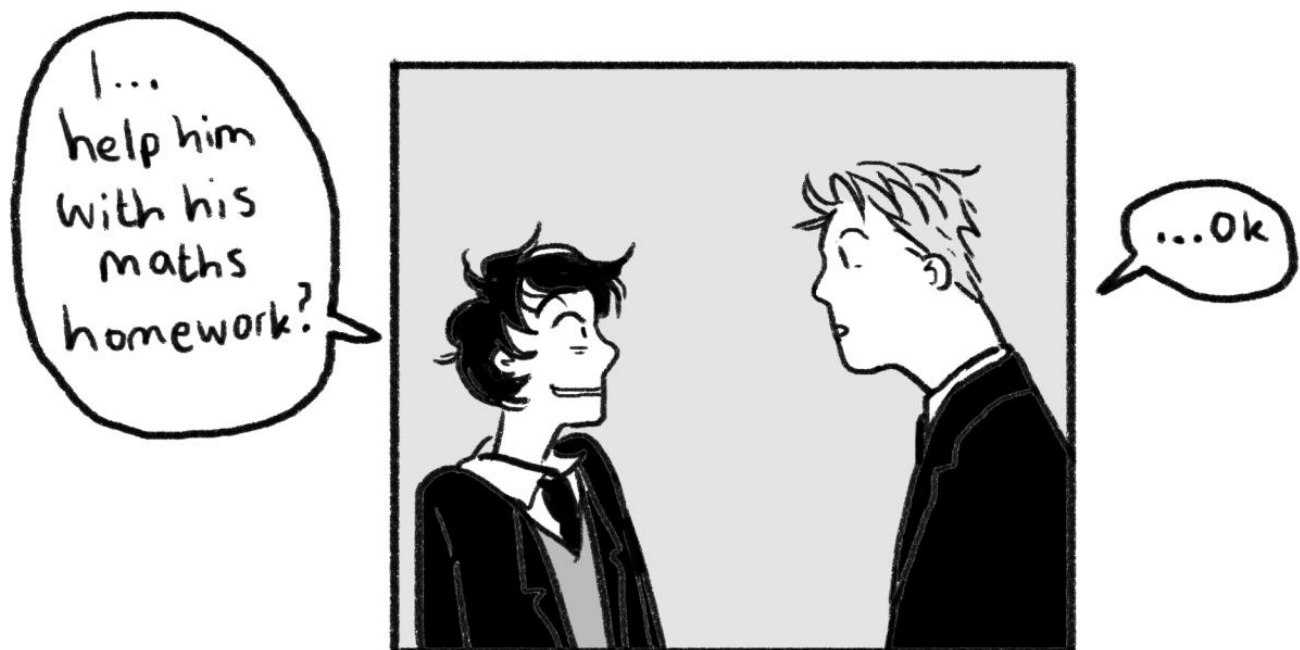
36



CHARLIE?









So...
anyway...

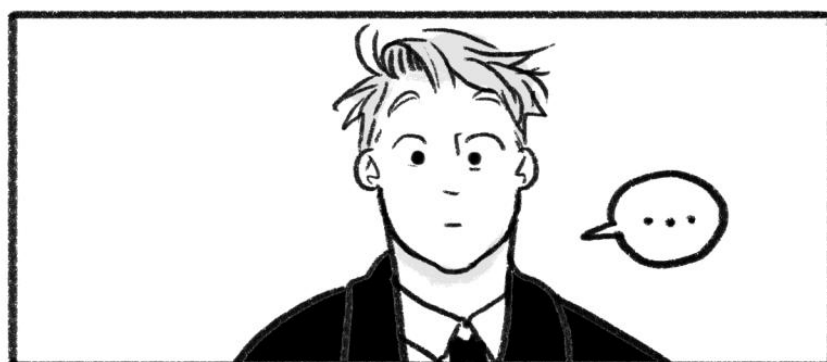


I have
something
to ask
you!



Charlie, you may not
know this, but I'm
gay too, and I'm in
love with you. Will
you go out with me?
I want to be with
you forever



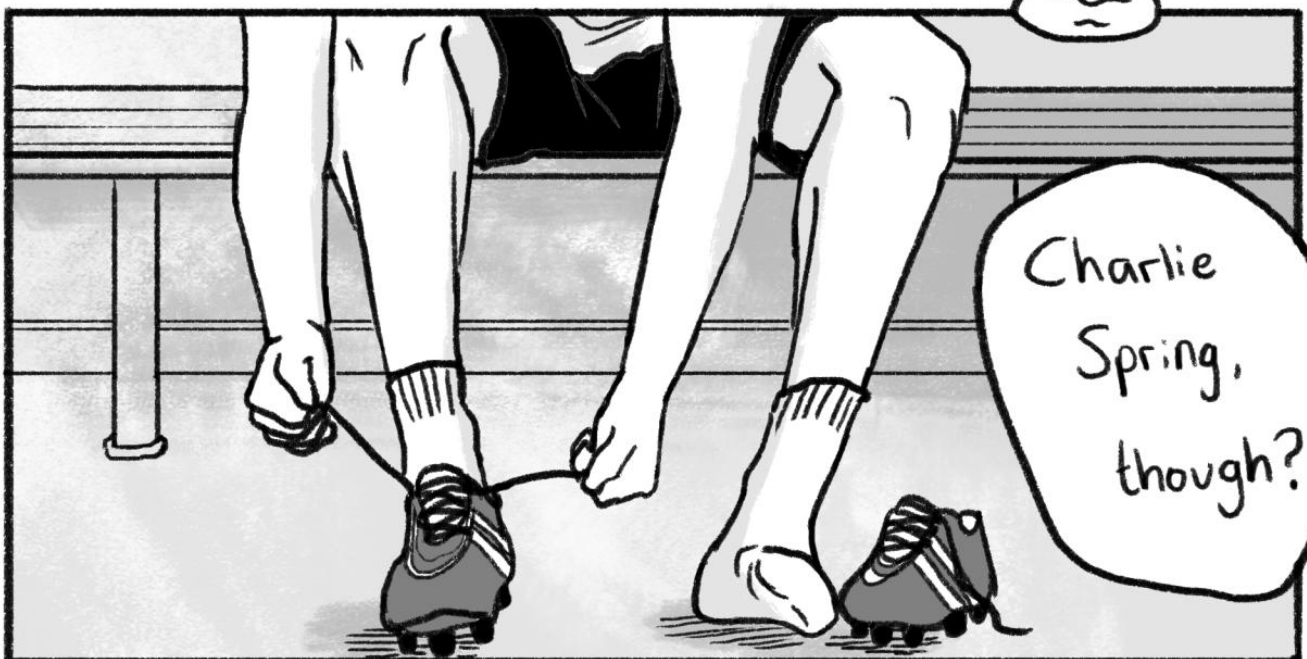
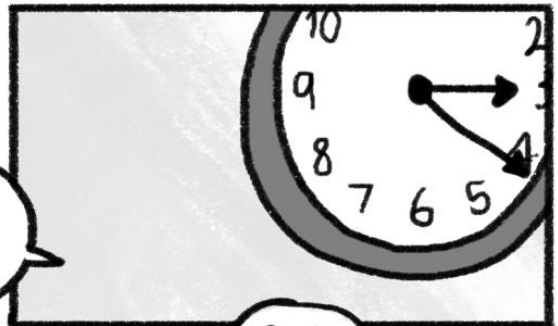
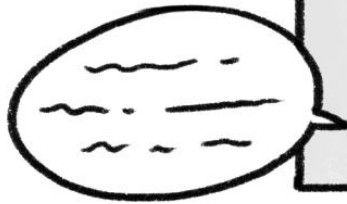


- beep -





ONE WEEK LATER...



Charlie
Spring,
though?



Why him, though?

?



!!

He's a fucking stick

Like, I know he's popular, everyone loves him, but can he even play?

!

I'm sure he's a nice guy, but we actually want to be good!



Does he even like sports? Everyone knows he's gay-

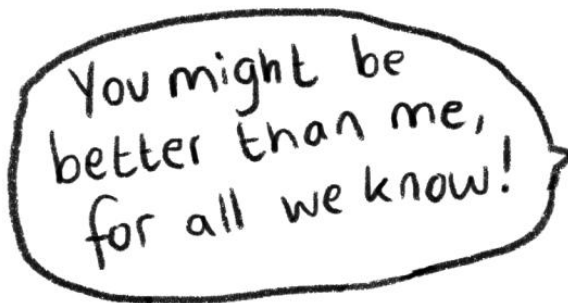
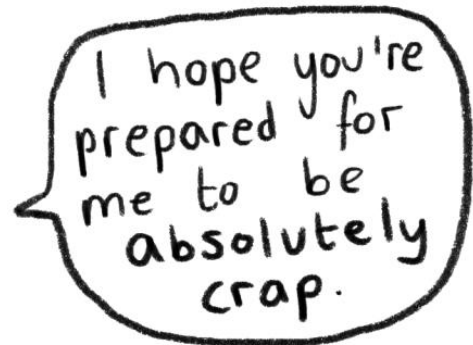
— CREAK —



Hey!



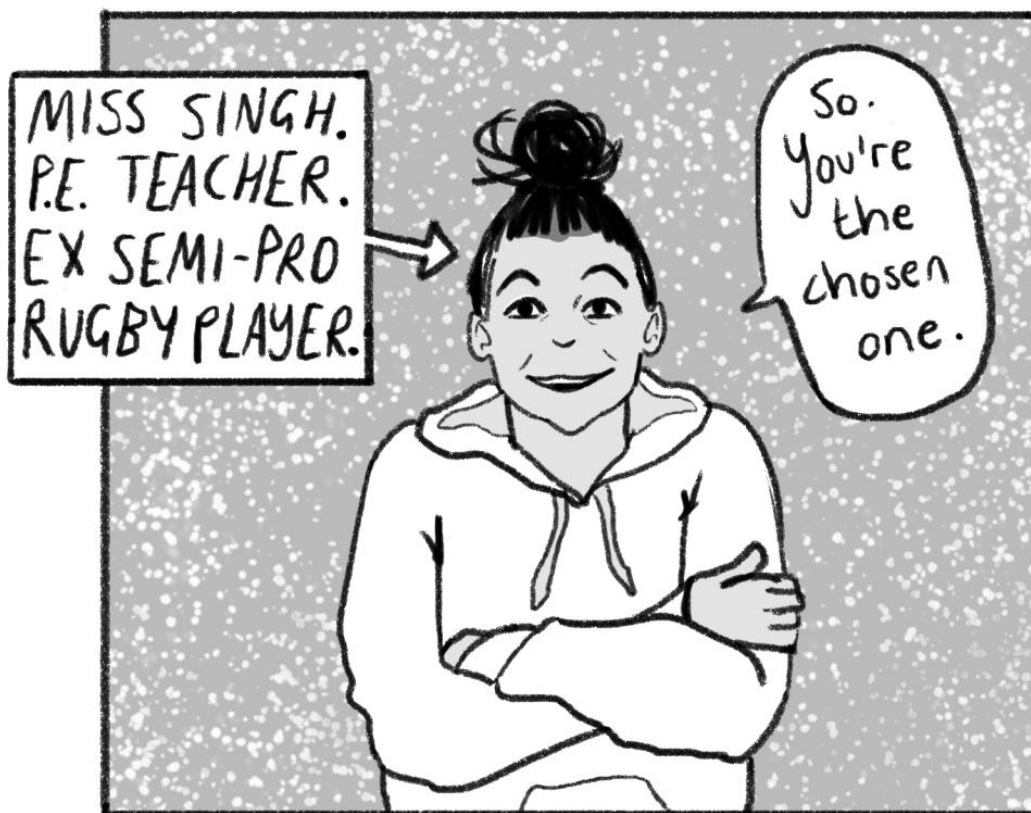




CHARLIE SPRING!!

50





Um











...so we've covered passing and scoring...

We've got about 15 minutes left, so-

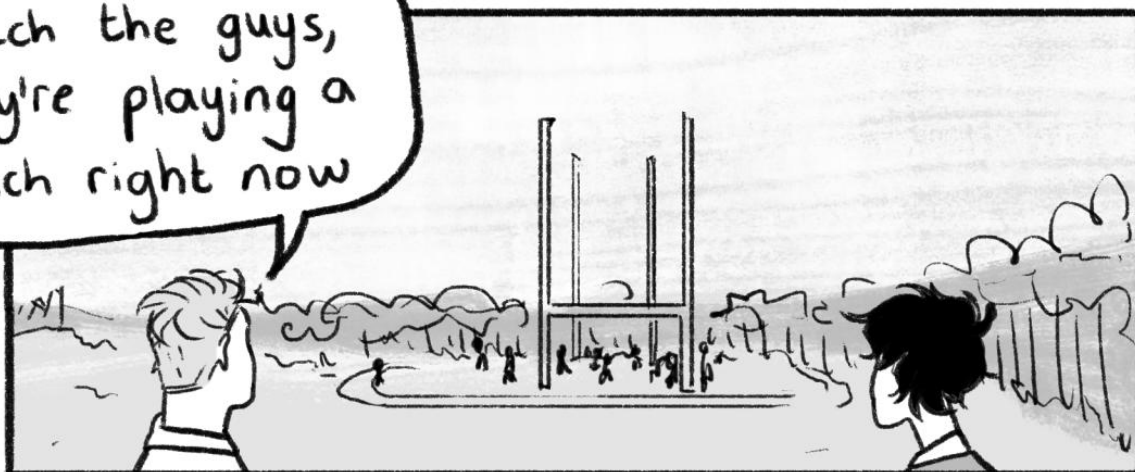
- do you want to give Tackling a go?

..Tackling?



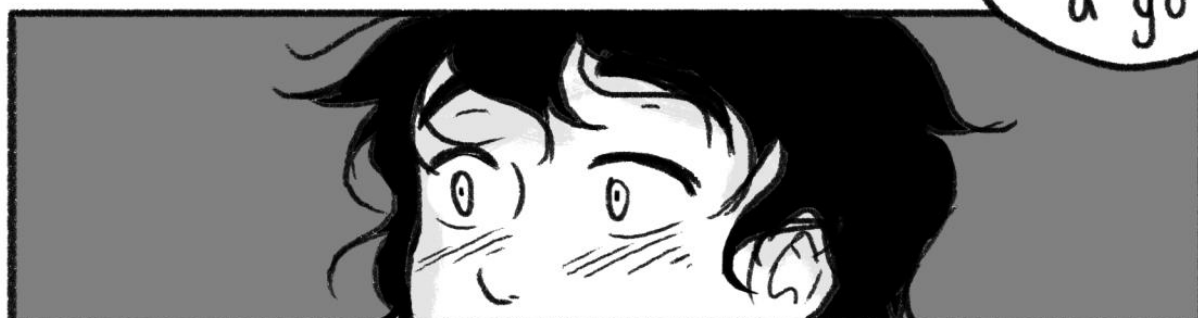


It's not too hard
-watch the guys,
they're playing a
match right now



You just have to
take the player with
the ball down by
grabbing them
below their
shoulders

Want to
give it
a go?





I am definitely
way too weak
to do that



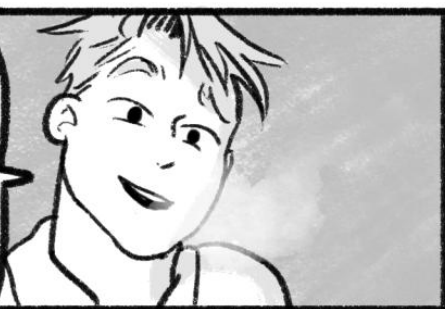
Excuse me - where
is your 'can do'
attitude?



Give it a go. Just
run at me. I
won't dodge!

57

Go
onnnnn.
I bet
you can
do it.



..Fine



58





That was perfect!

59



Was
it!?!



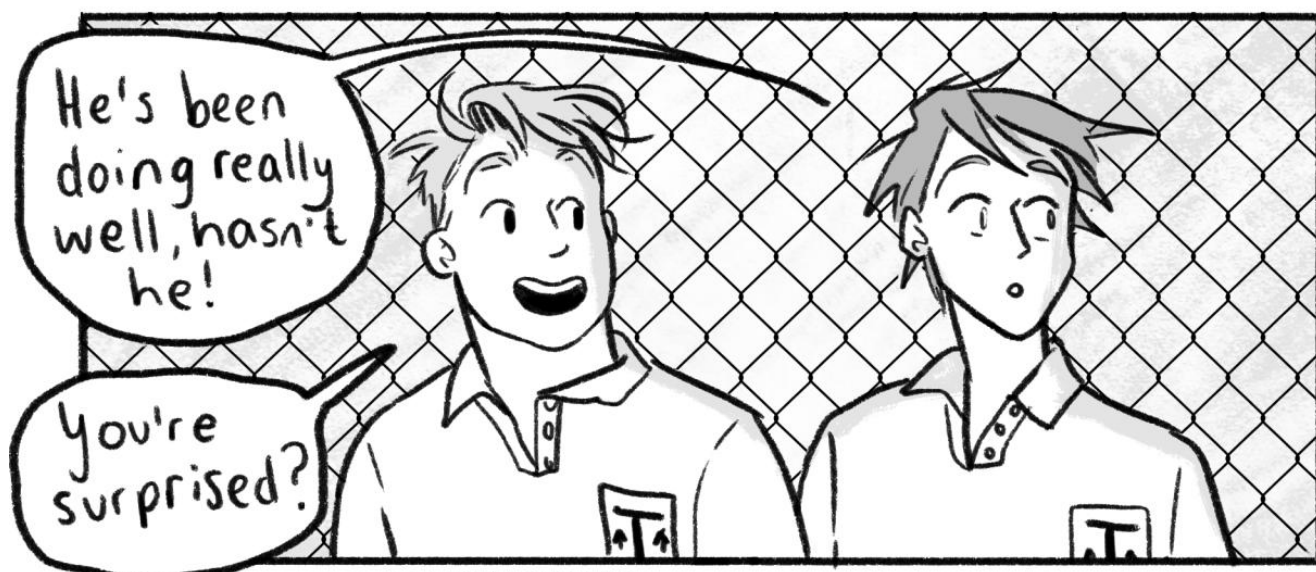


Let's
try it
again
while
running!





ONE WEEK LATER



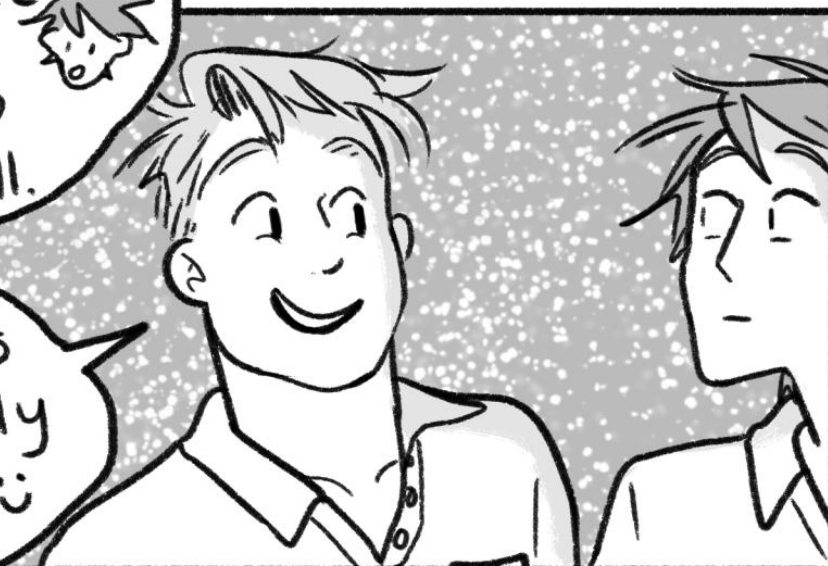
Well all I knew about him was that he's gay 

Mate, I don't actually think being gay makes you bad at sports.



I never said that!! Anyway, I can see why he's popular. He's managed to fit in really well. 

Yeah... he's just a really cool guy! :)





WHAT

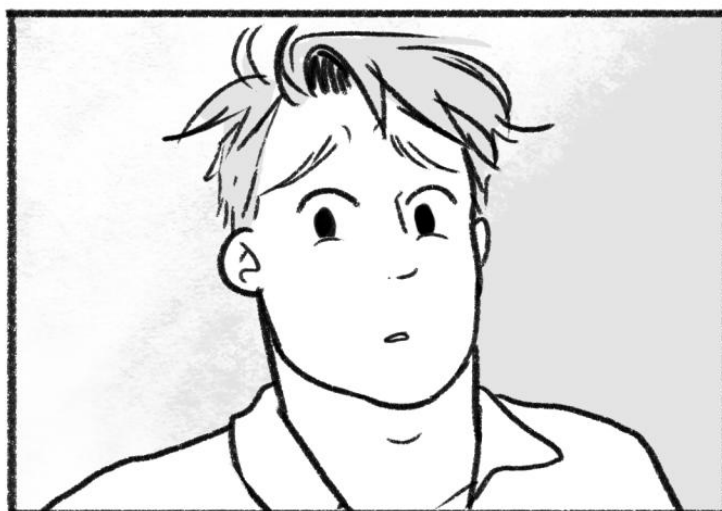


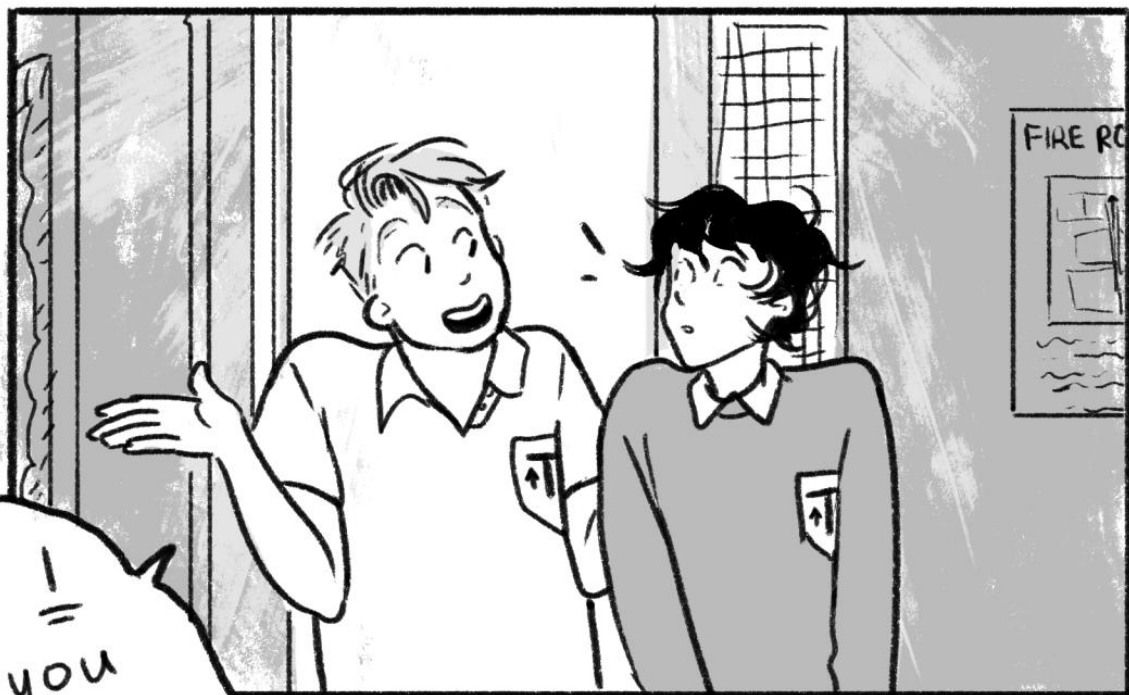


It's silly.



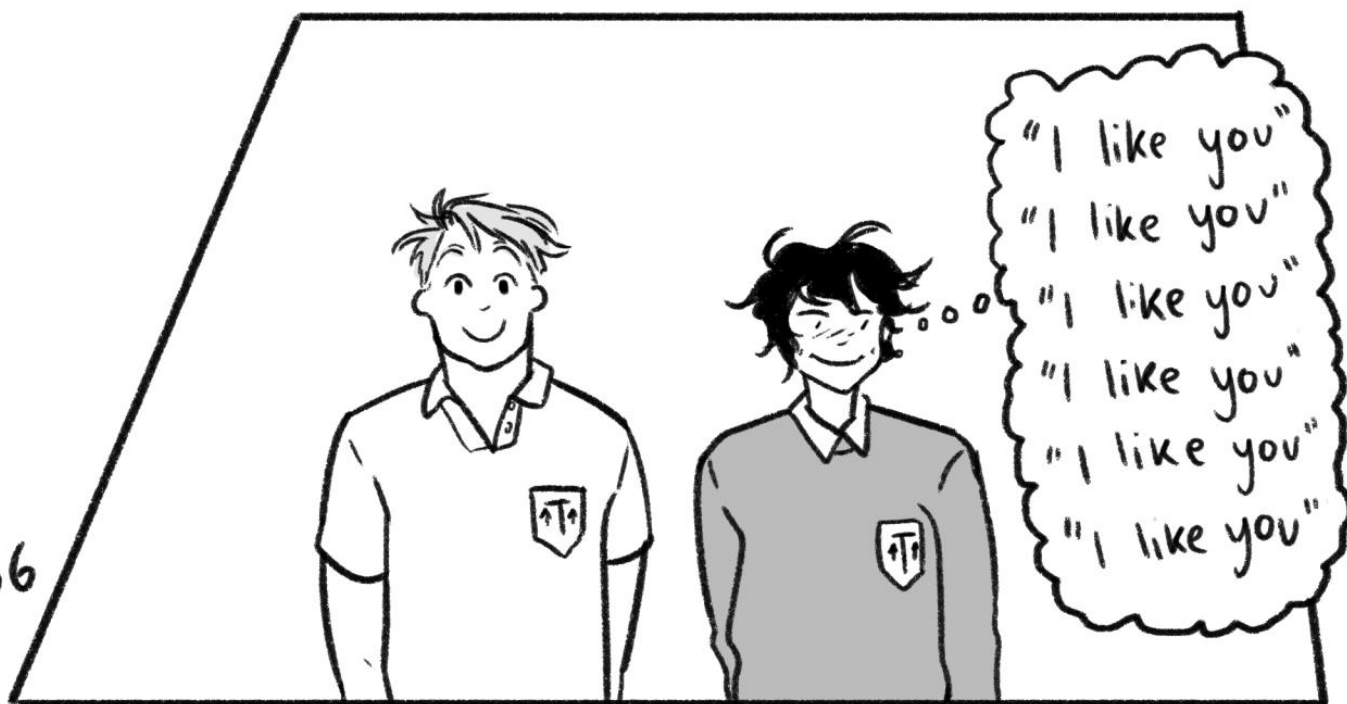
All of the older boys kinda remind me of the people who used to bully me.





Well I
like you
and want
you on
the team!

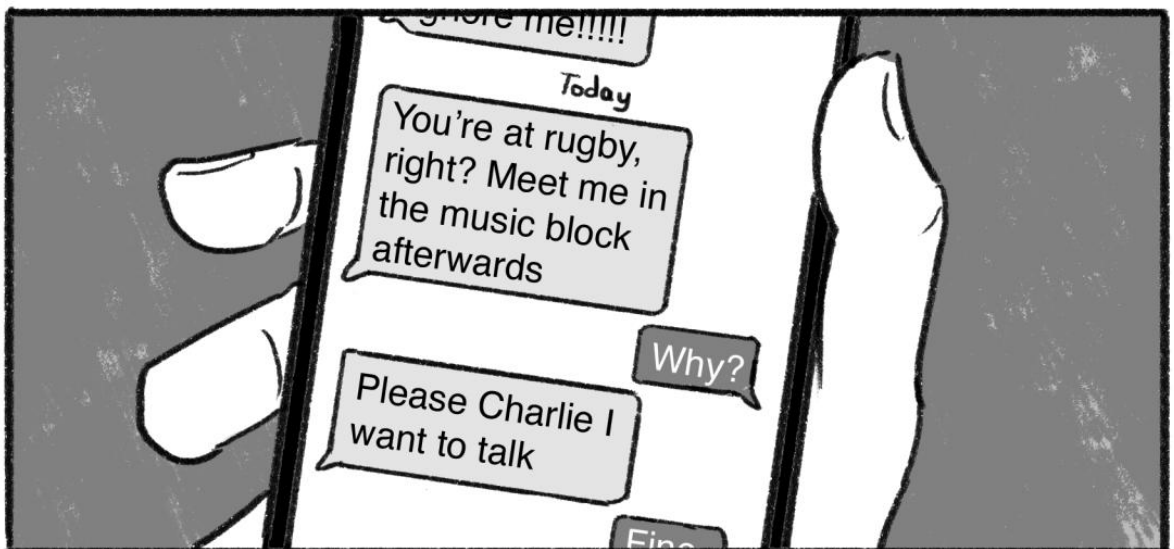
Haha!!
Good!







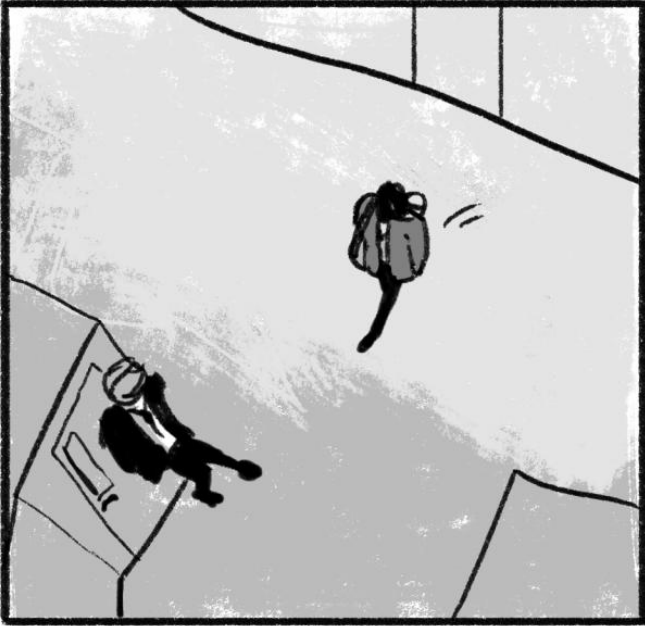












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Don't touch me

GOD what is your problem? I'm trying to be nice



I said I don't want to meet up with you anymore -

Yeah, I don't believe you!

...what??

I think you're scared of us getting caught





Why would I be scared? Everyone in the school already knows I'm gay! YOU'RE the one who's scared of getting caught! You're not even my boyfriend! I've seen you with your girlfriend at the school gate!!



You don't give a SHIT about me. You just found the nearest guy who was willing to make out with you and went for it!

YOU went for it too. Don't be angry at me for not wanting to come out yet.





I'm not angry about that! I'm angry because you never even slightly cared about my feelings at all. We only ever meet up when you want, where you want-

When you feel like making out with a boy!



I could be ANYONE!
You don't give a shit!

That's obviously not true

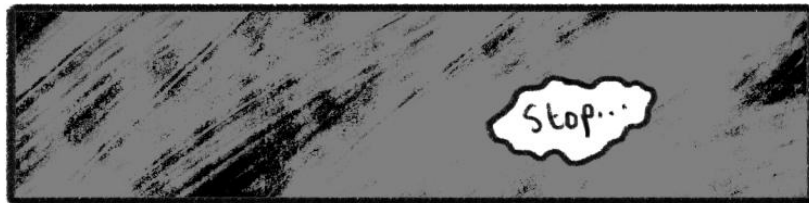


It is true!
You just heard
the rumours
about
me and
was like "Oh
good, there's
finally a gay
boy I can safely
get off with"!!





















I just... kind of followed you... You seemed really stressed out while we were getting changed.



I just started getting worried... er... so... yeah.

FIVE MINUTES EARLIER



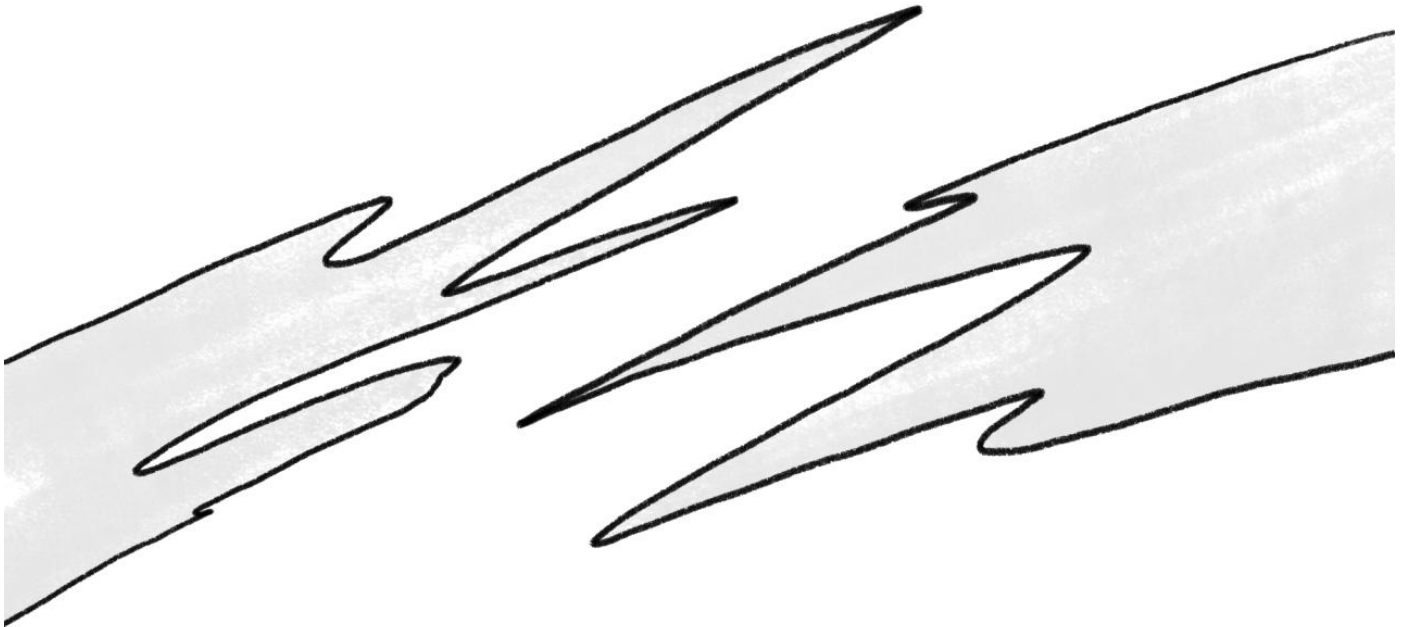




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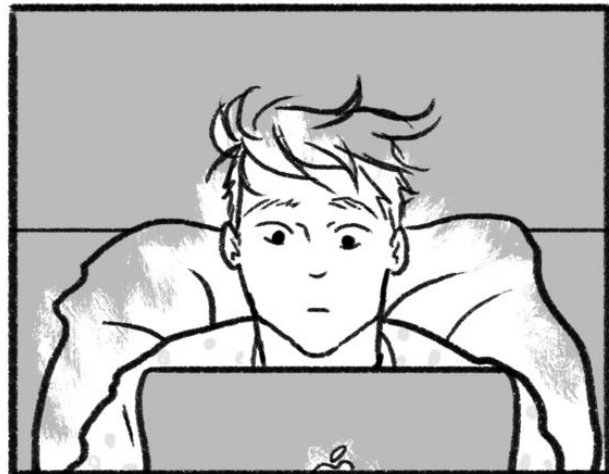


2. CRUSH

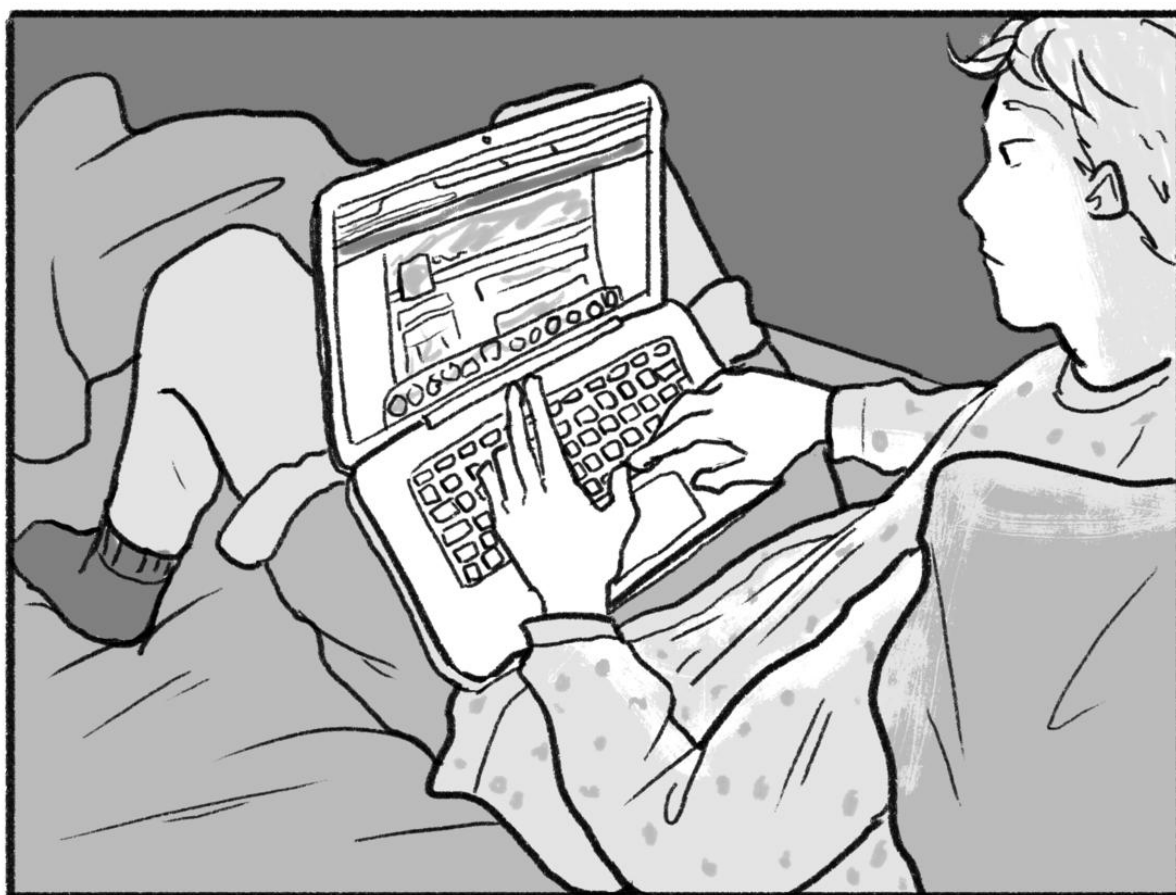




tap



tap tap



"Hey, did you hear
some Year 9 has
come out as gay?"



TEN MONTHS AGO...



"Yeah, d'you know Charlie Spring from 9H? Apparently he's gay."

"Where did you hear that?"

"It's going round the whole school."





"He's been getting a lot of shit for it, I think."



"I mean, this is an all-boys school! What did he expect?"

"What did he expect?"



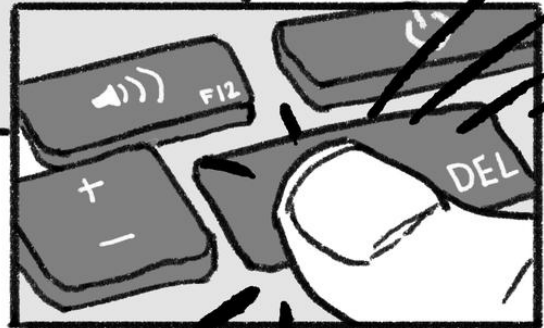


tap tap

Hey so what happened seemed really serious		
 Add Files	 Add Photos	

tap

tap tap tap



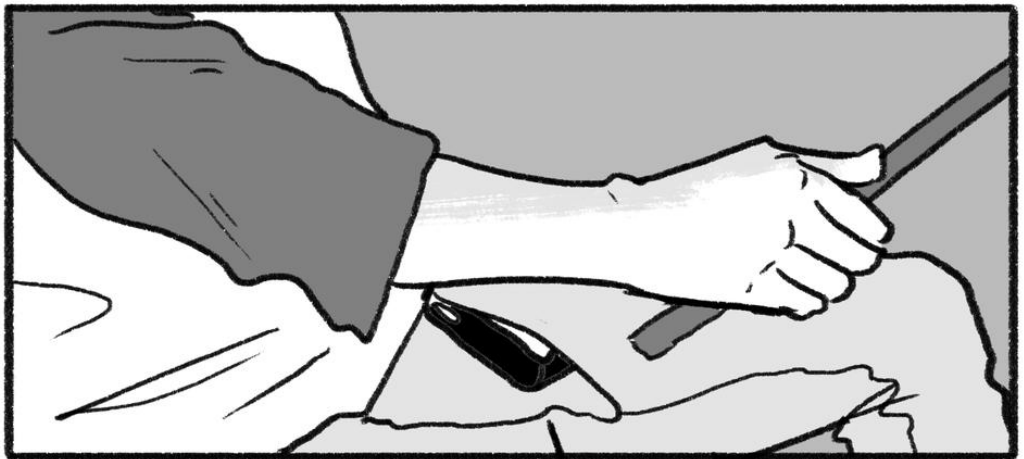
I don't think you should talk to Ben anymore		
 Add Files	 Add Photos	





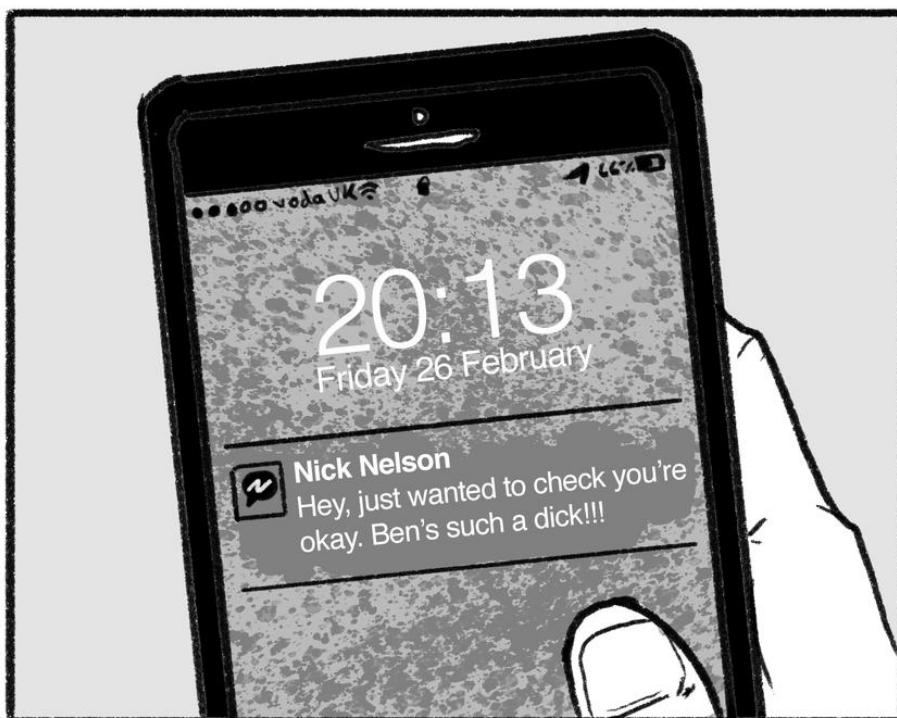
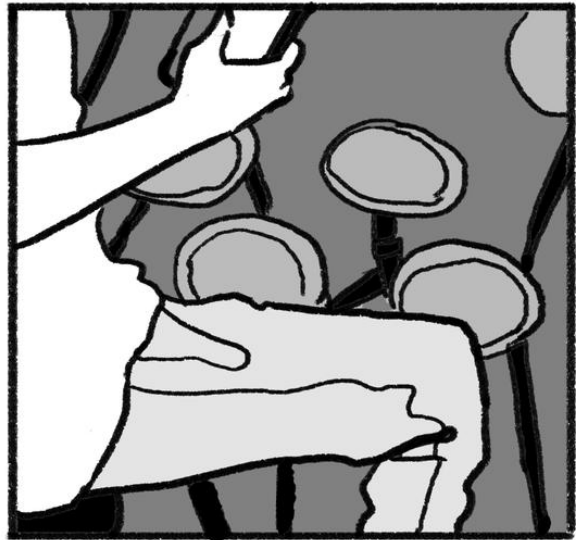
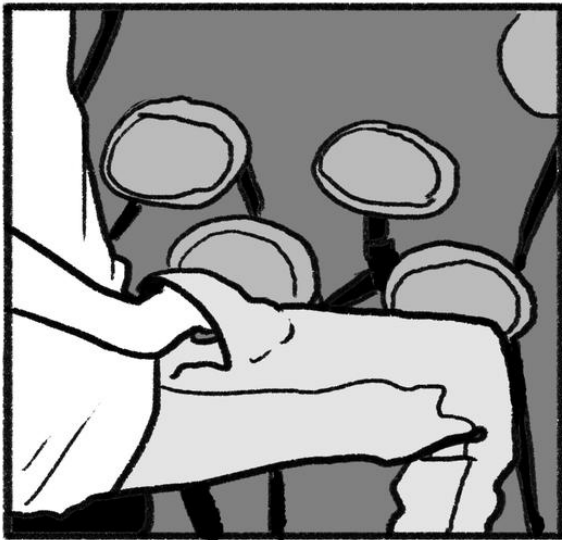
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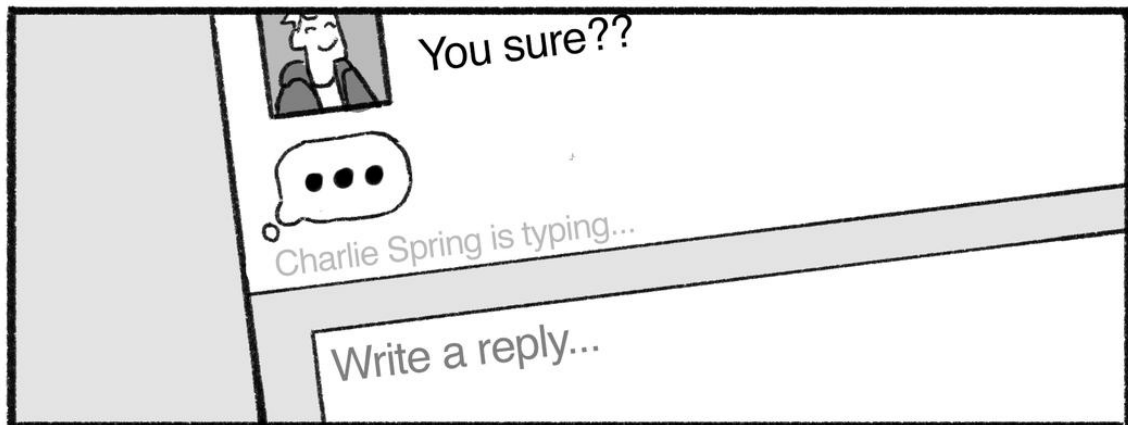


BUZZ

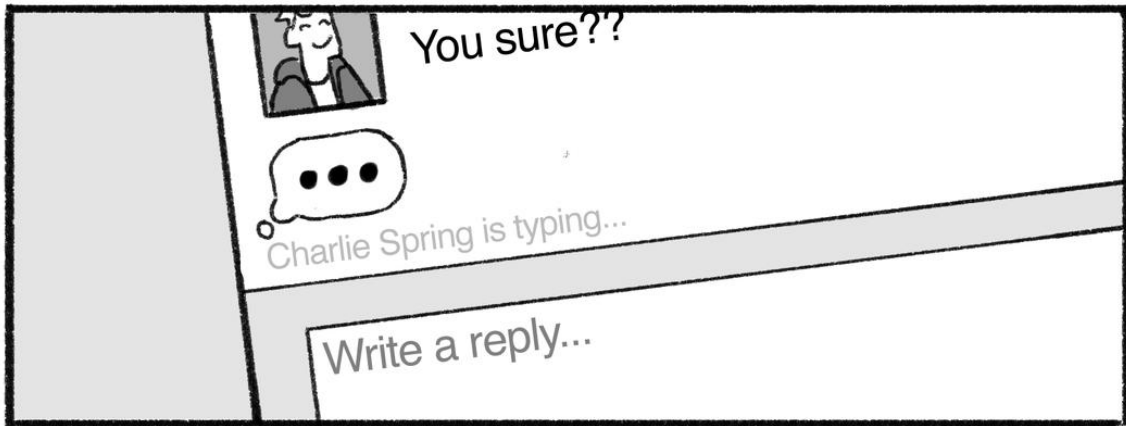
?

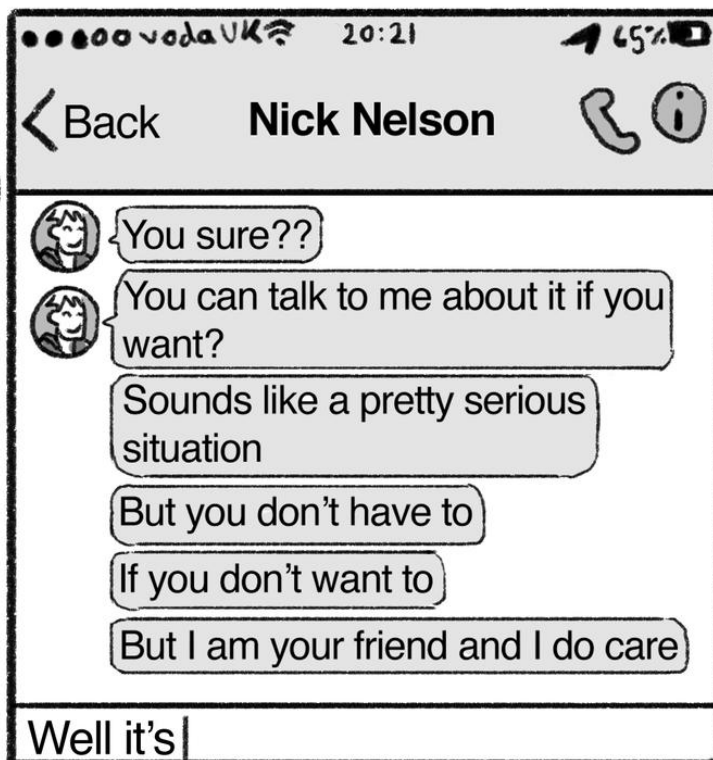
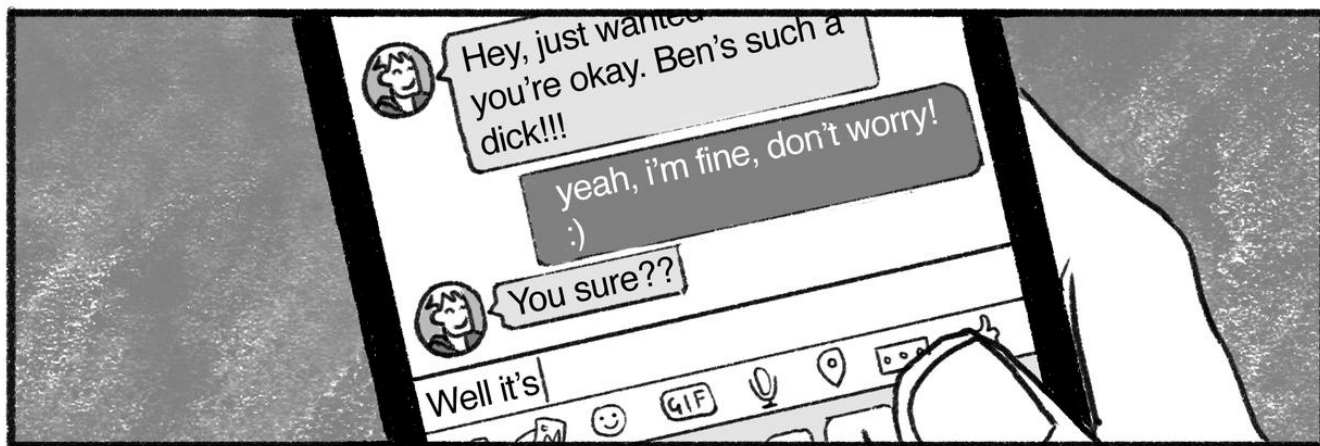






FIVE MINUTES LATER







But you don't have to
If you don't want to
But I am your friend and I do care



Charlie Spring

Okay

Might be a bit of a long story lol

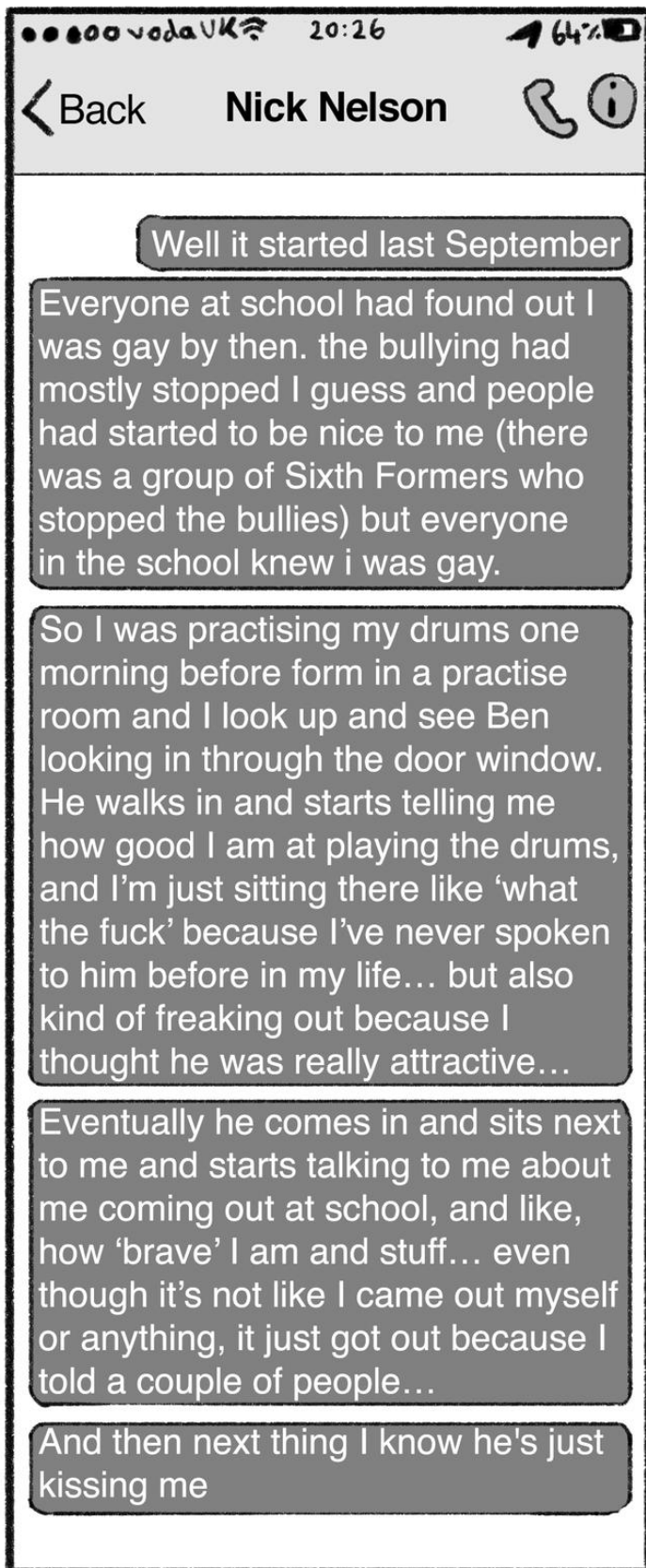


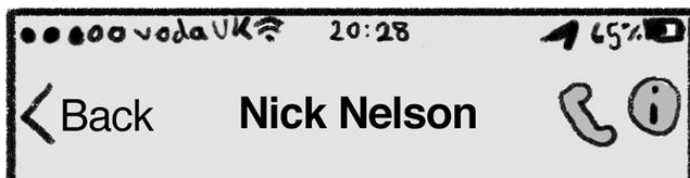
Nick Nelson

I don't mind!!

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And yeah, we just continued to meet up sometimes at school before form. And like... I was so excited about it. I thought I had a boyfriend, or, like, I was having some big romance... But I slowly started to realise he was just using me for someone to make out with... because I was the only gay boy he knew...

and then in January I found out he had a girlfriend as well. Some girl from Higgs school. I don't know if he's bisexual or gay or whatever but it doesn't really change anything. He was just using me.



I tried to end it but he just kept pestering me. I thought I'd just meet up with him one last time to tell him to leave me alone but... yeah. That didn't go well I guess haha



Nick Nelson

FUCK I hate Ben so much. I knew he was a dick, but... jesus.
Please don't ever talk to him again

Charlie Spring

I definitely won't!!!!

Nick Nelson

I will kick his ass if he tries to come near you





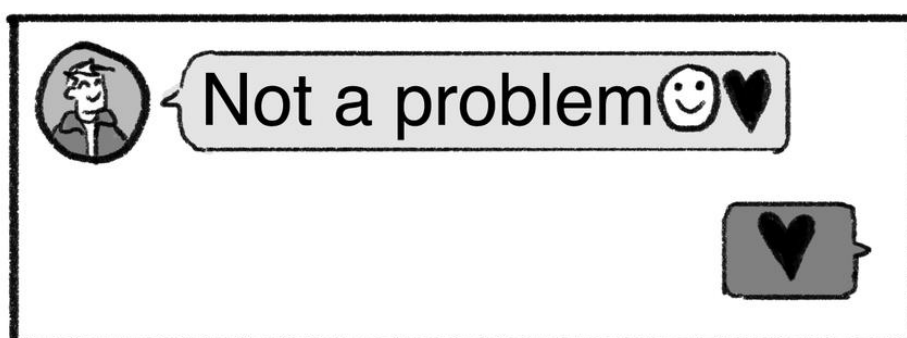
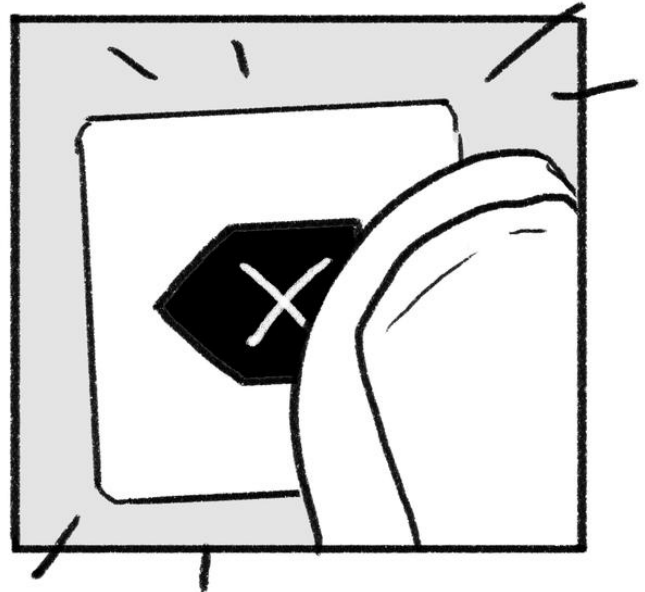
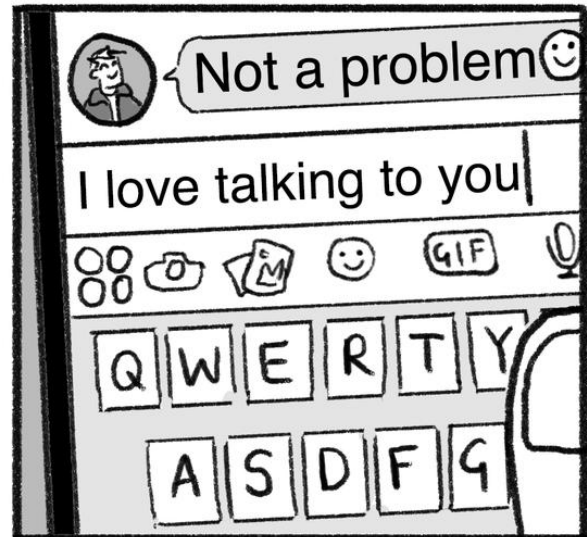
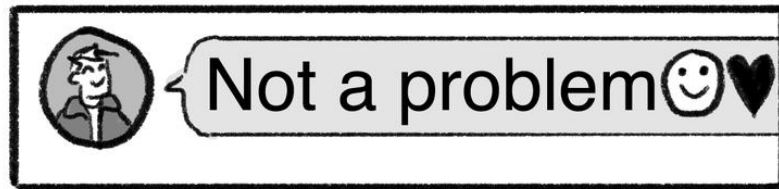
Thank you for
being there

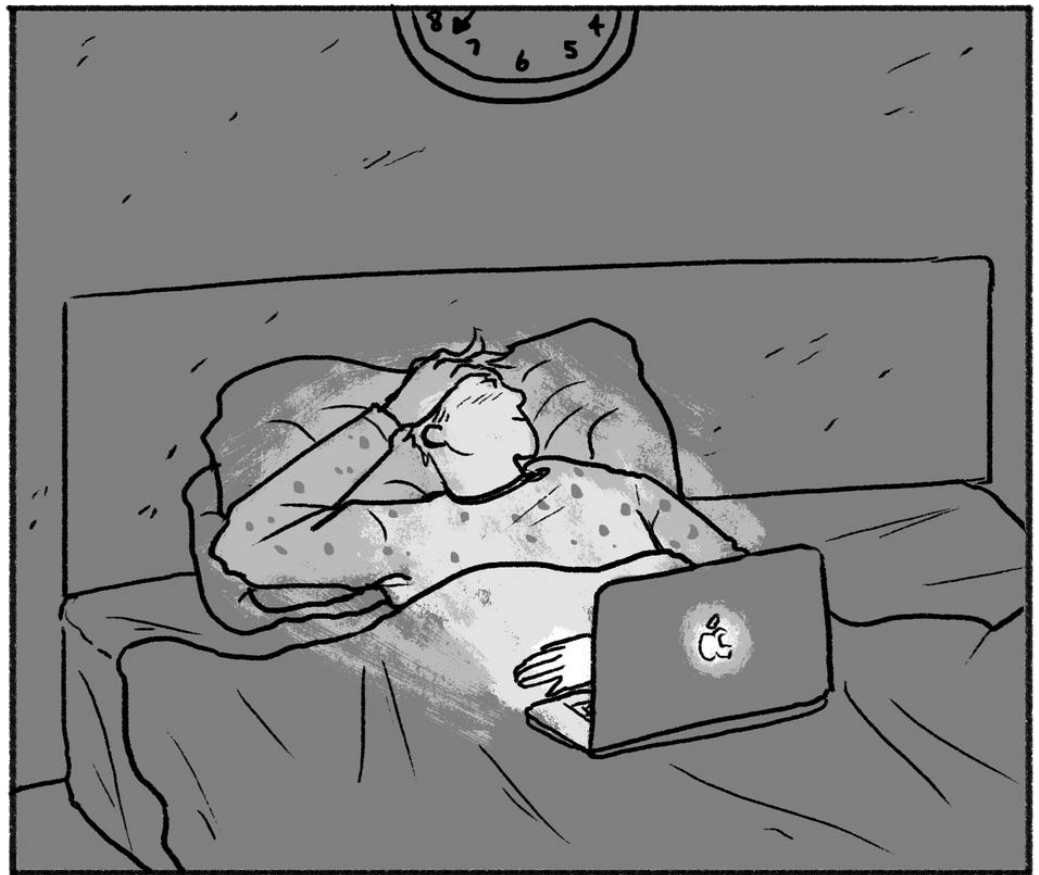
Generally or in
the music block?



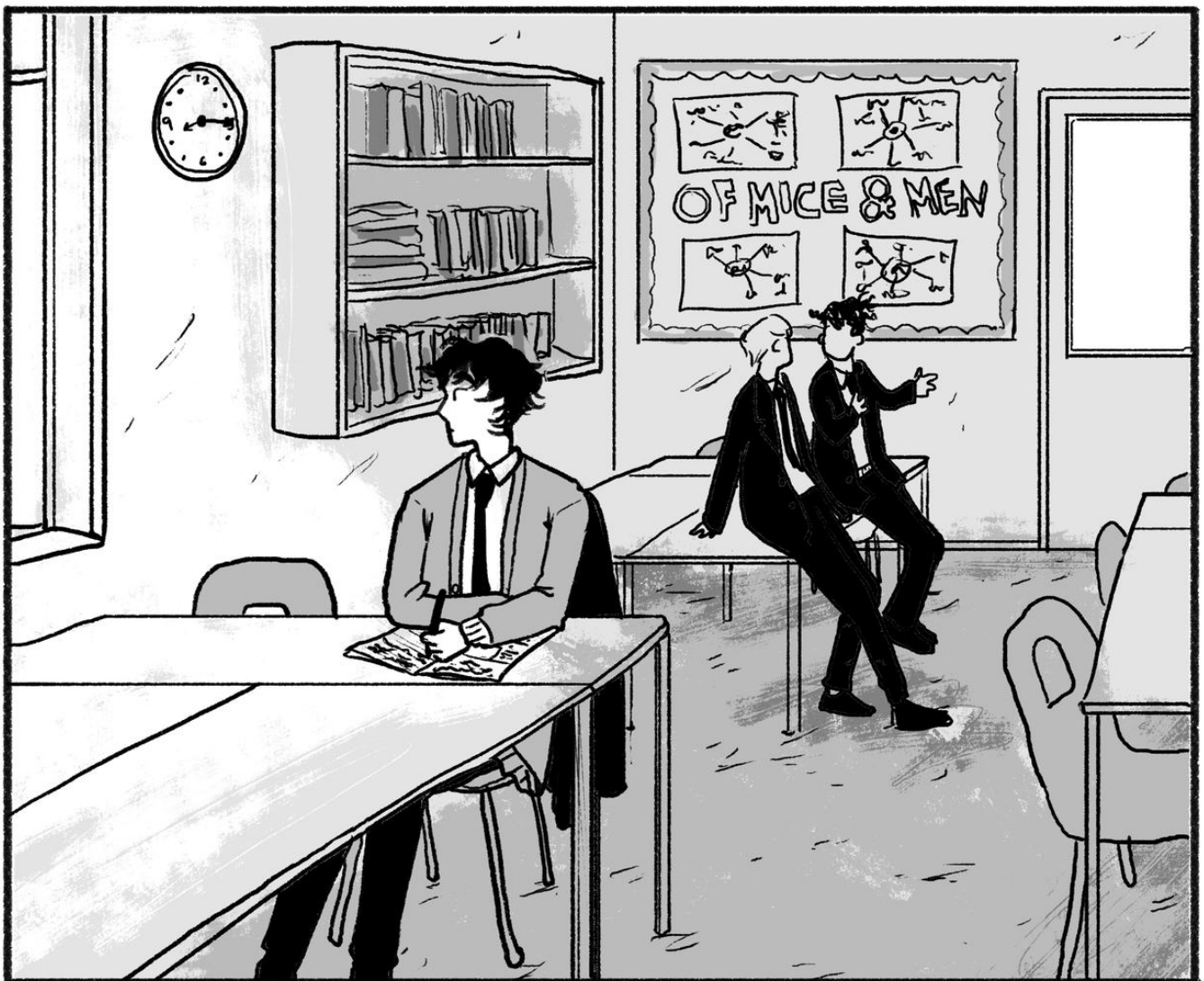
Well...

both





Should I
have told him
all that?







Charlie, what
the FUCK is
going on!?

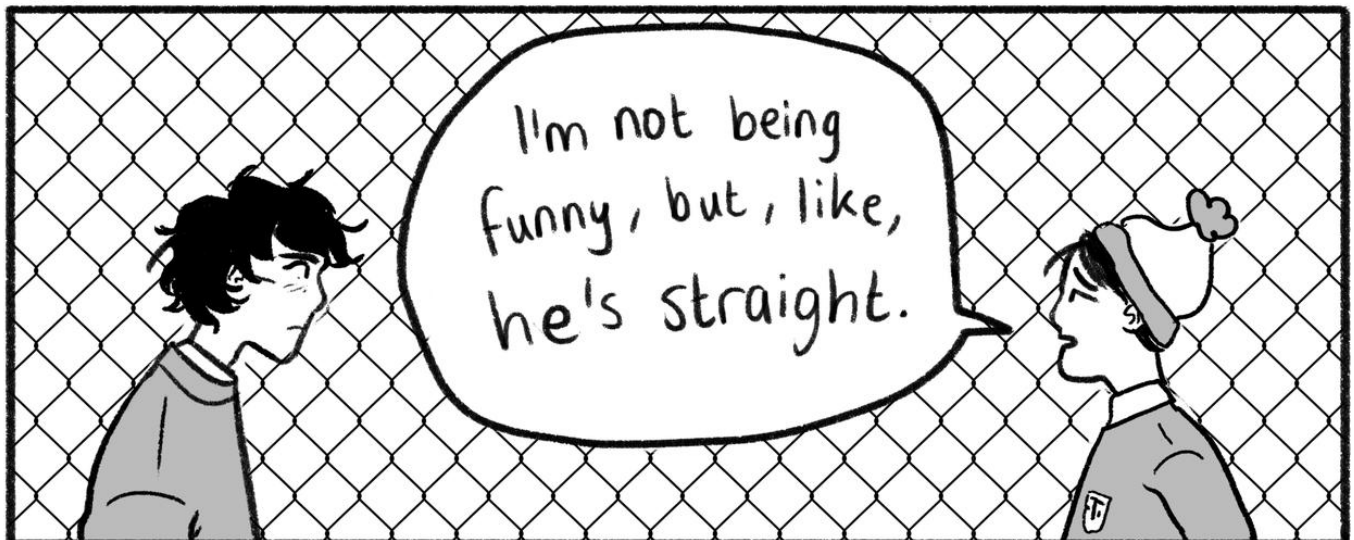








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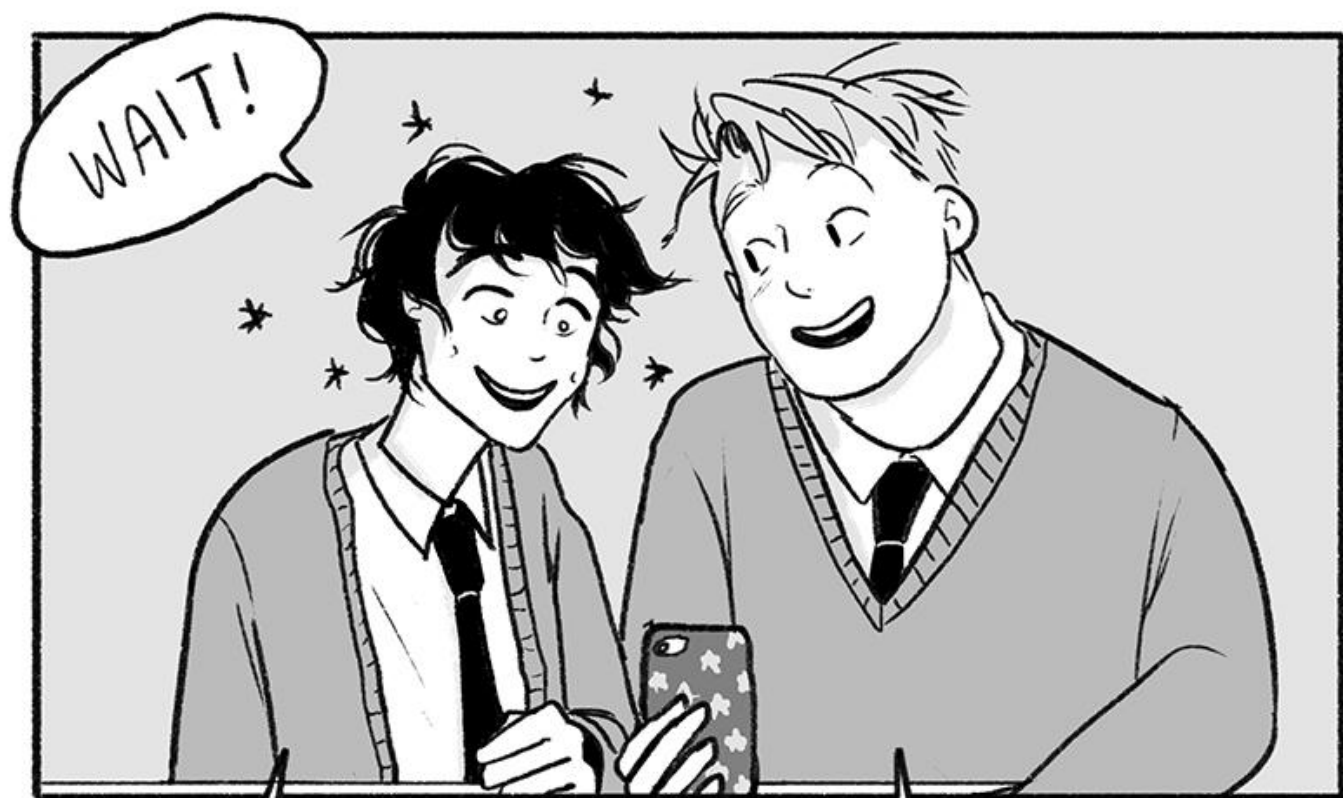
Yeah, it took
me like 3 hours
to bake it all
but my nan loves
cheese cake, so...

Wait, I think
I've got a
picture of it-

Oh! That's
just my dog,
haha

MARCH





You have
a dog?

Yeah! Her name's
Nellie ♡



She's pretty
old but I
love her

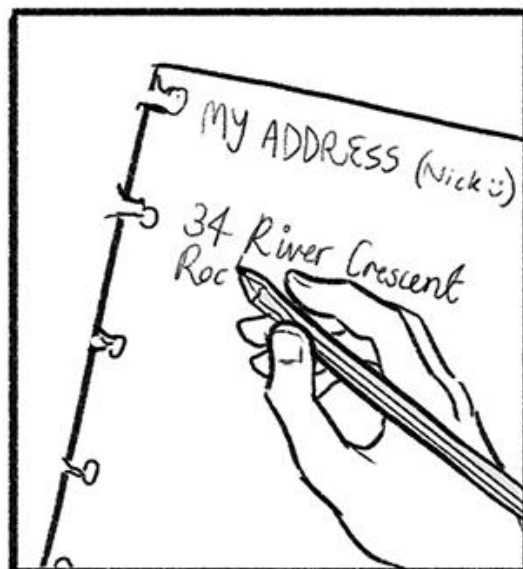
126



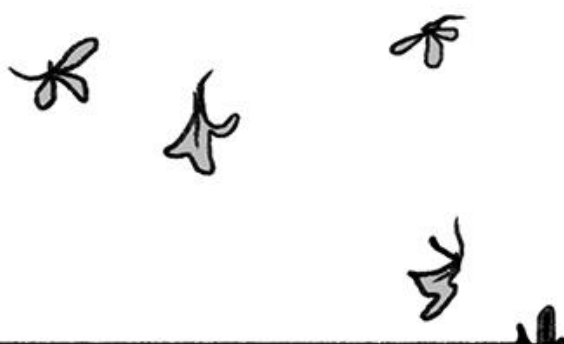
I wish I
had a dog.
My parents
don't like
animals.



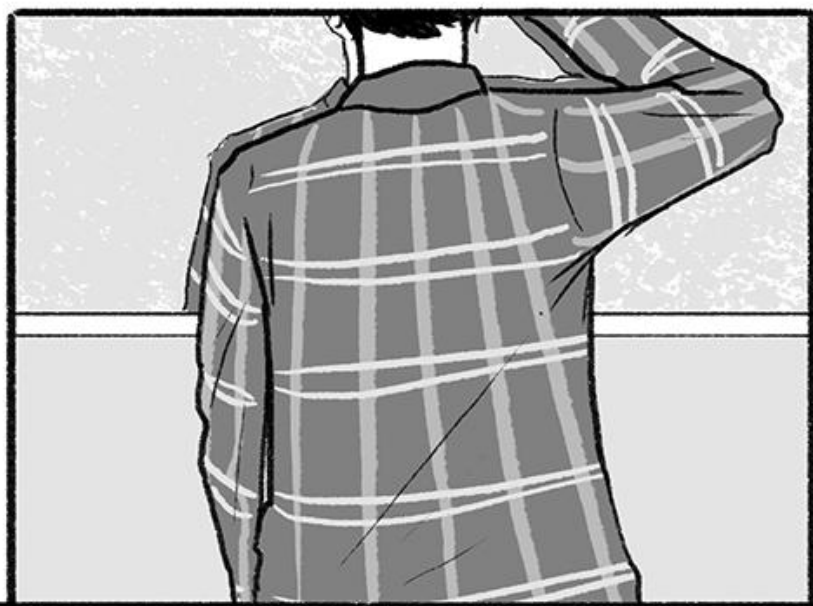
127

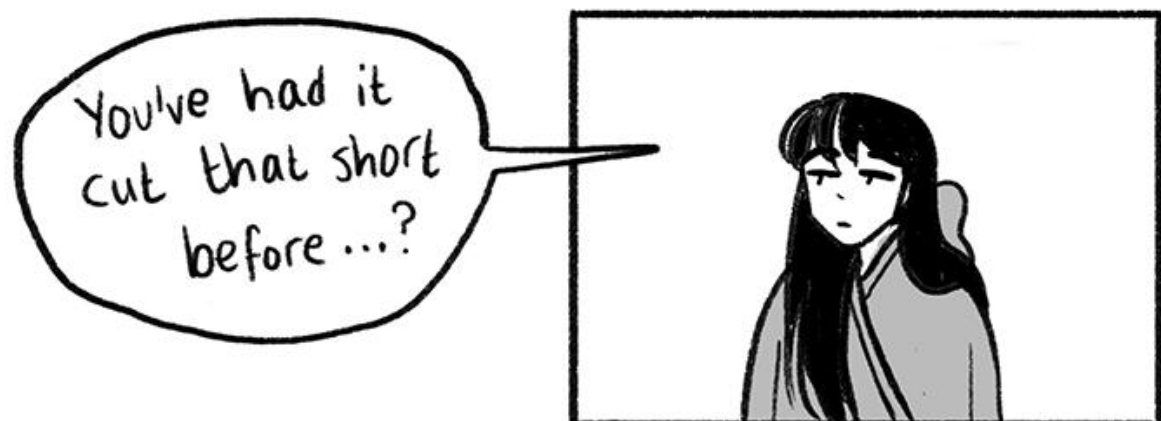




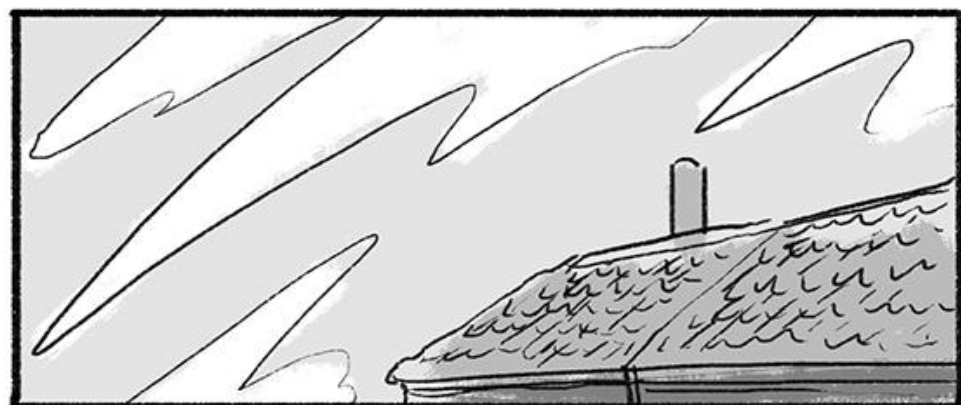


SATURDAY

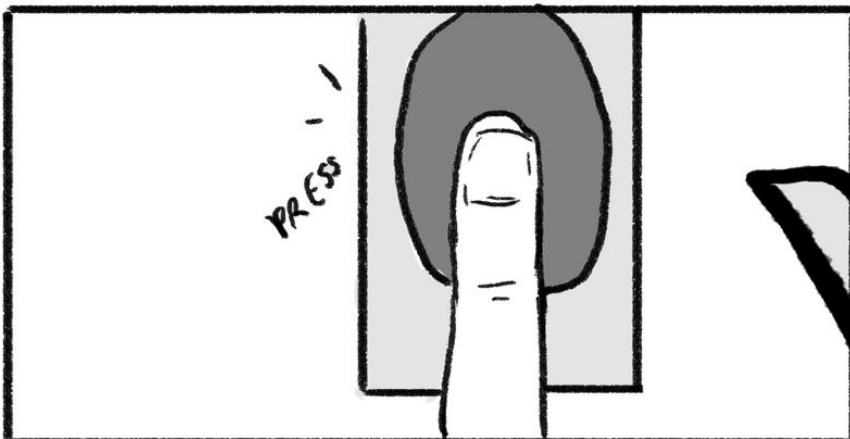
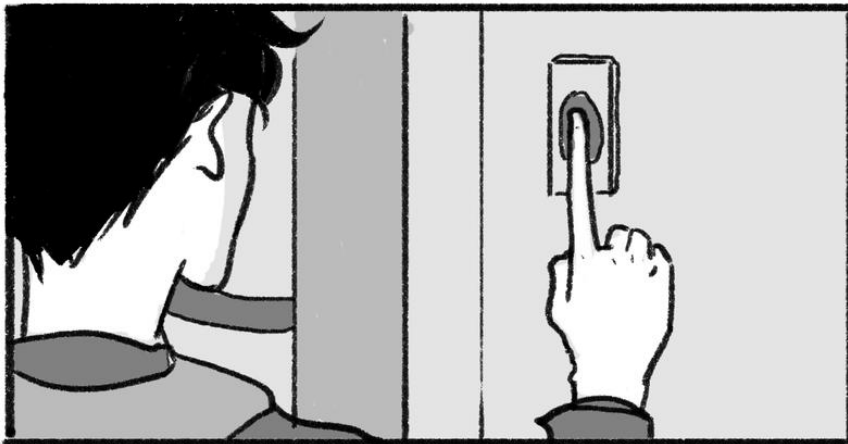




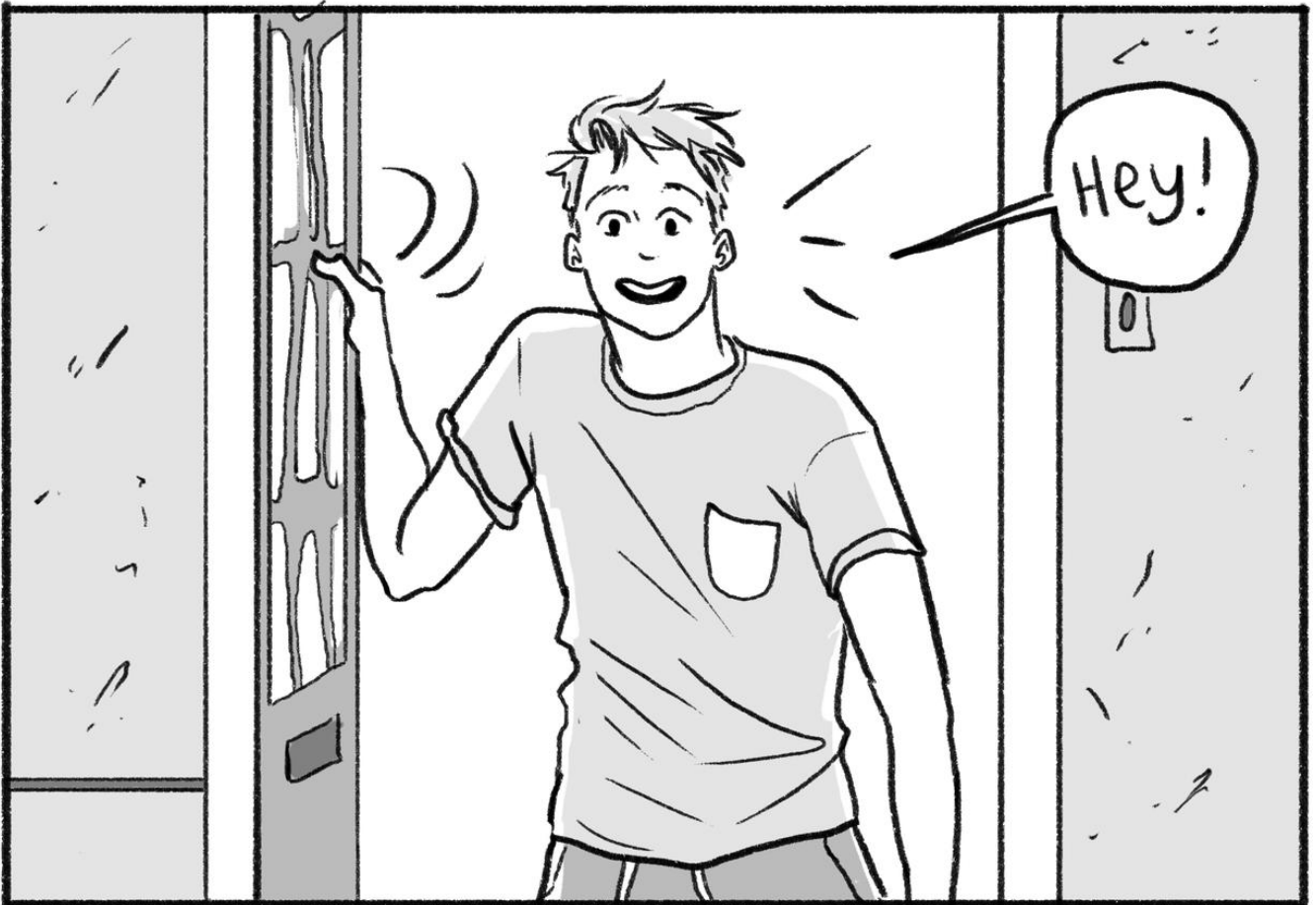


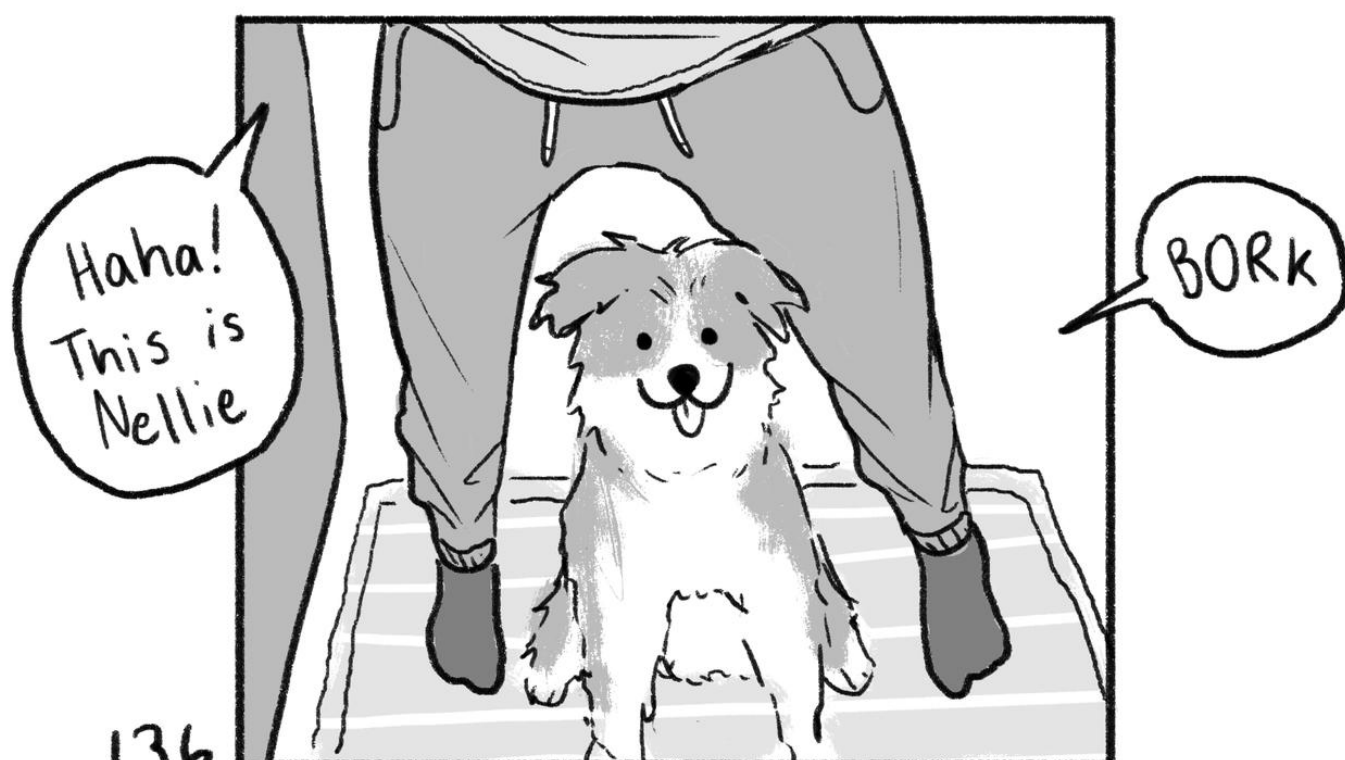






DRRRING





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I-Is it bad?

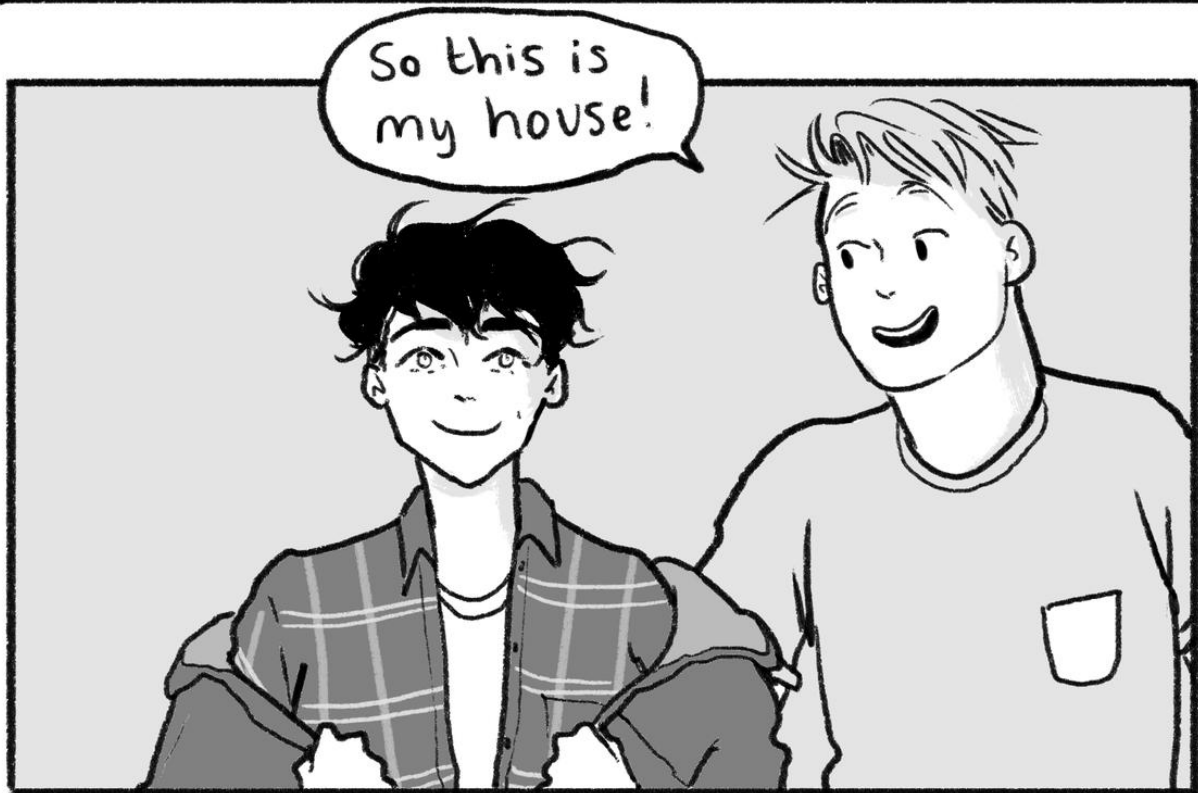


No no!
No! It- you
look- erm-
great



OKAY COME
IN OR NELLIE
WILL THINK
WE'RE GOING
FOR A WALK

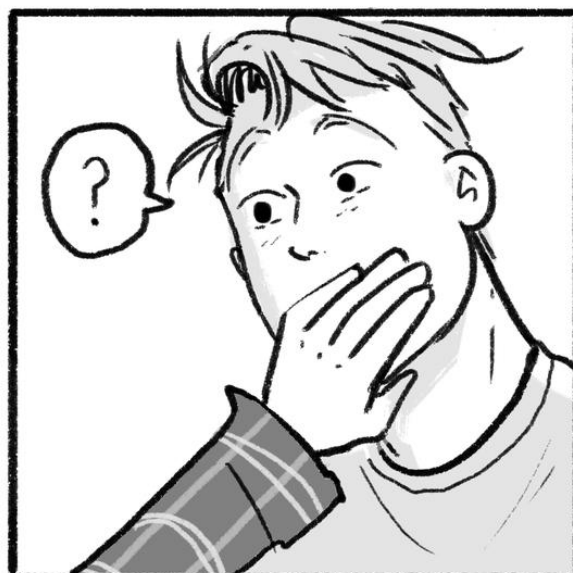
Okay











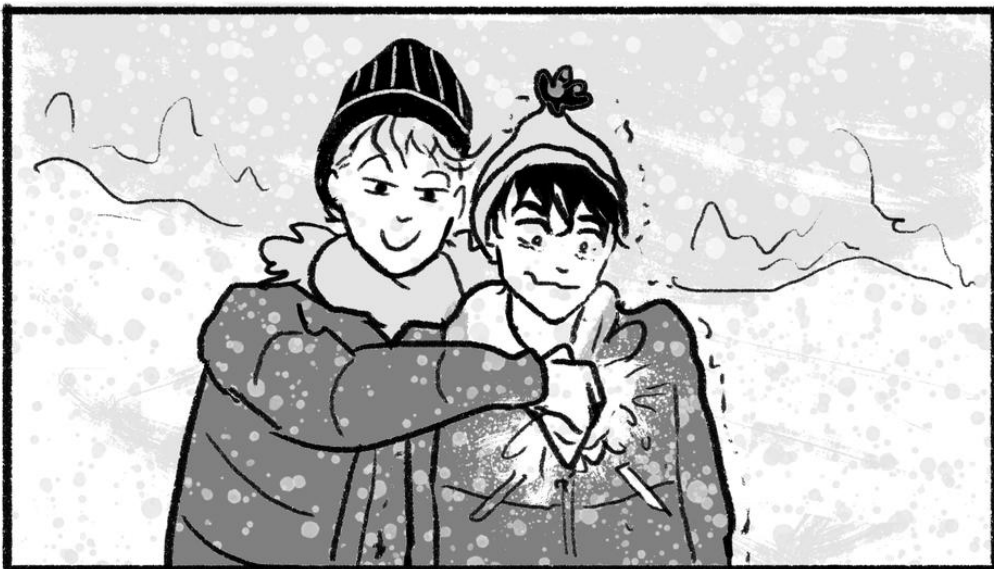


It's
snowing











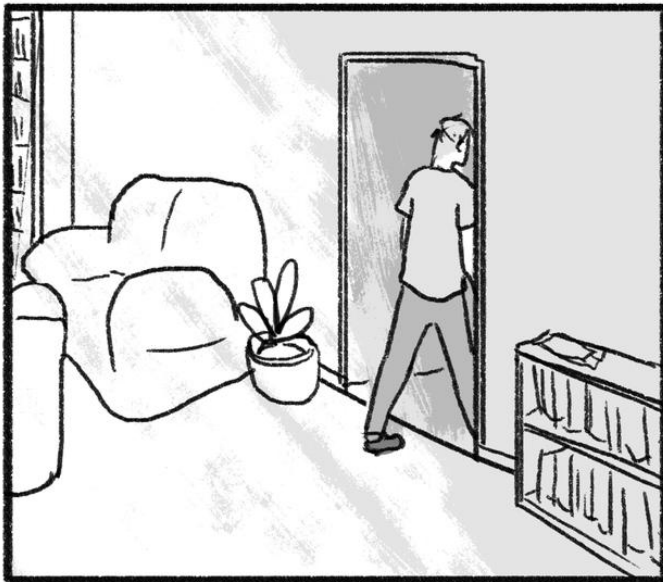
I. Am.
Freezing.



150



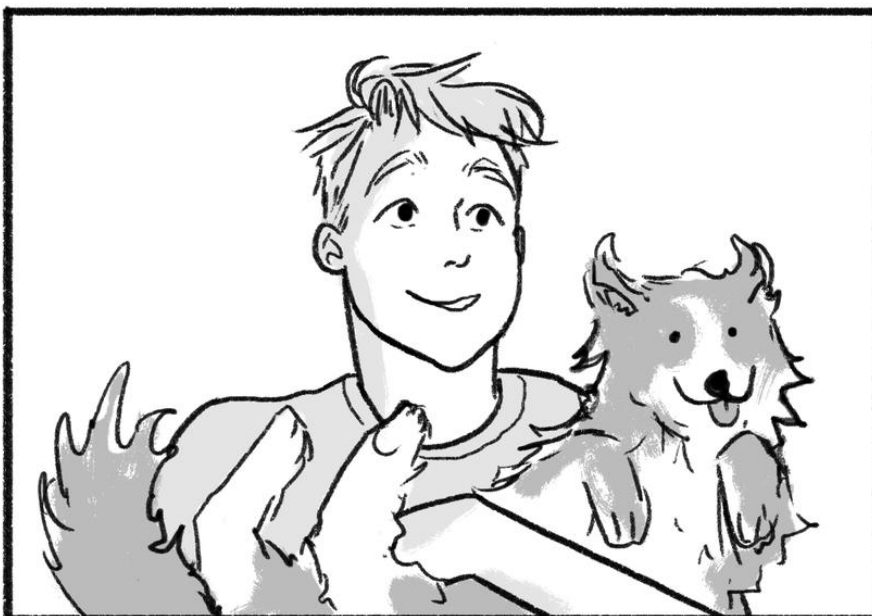




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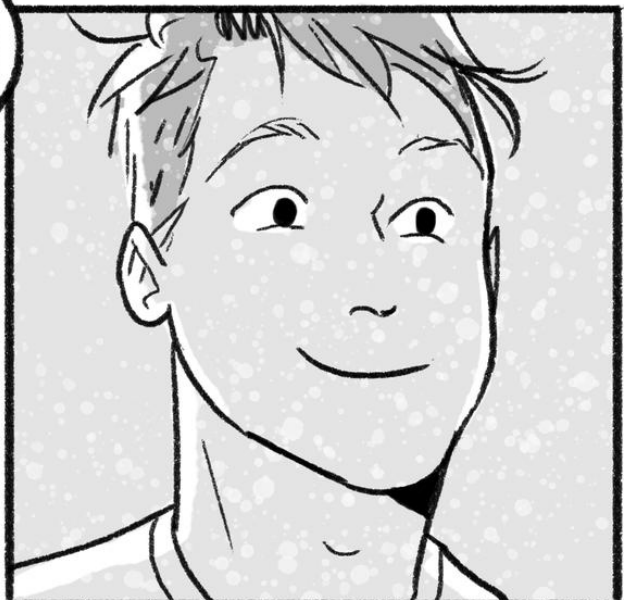


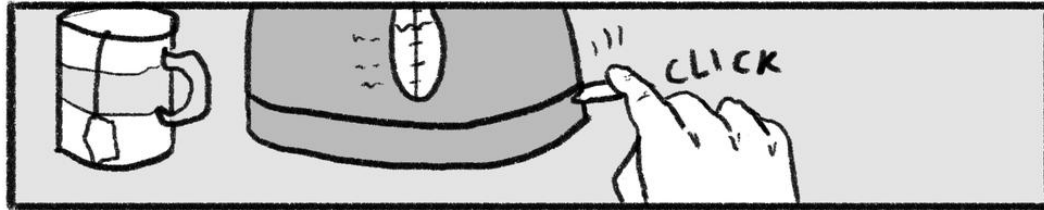


I'll miss
Nellie
too



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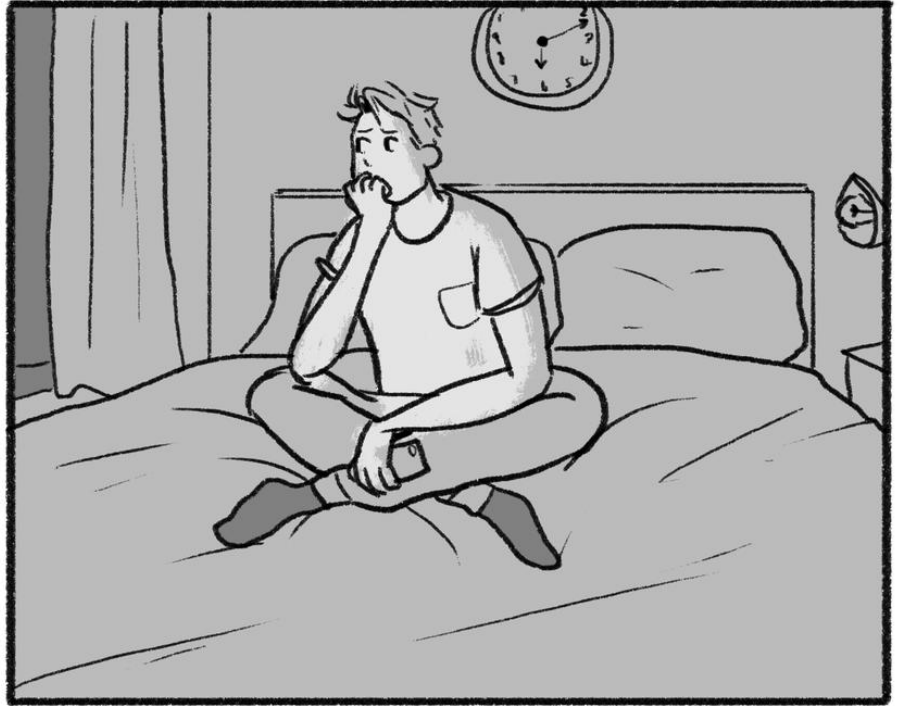
Charlie seems like a lovely boy. When did you meet him?

A couple of months ago. He's in my form group.













I fell for
a straight
boy...
haha...

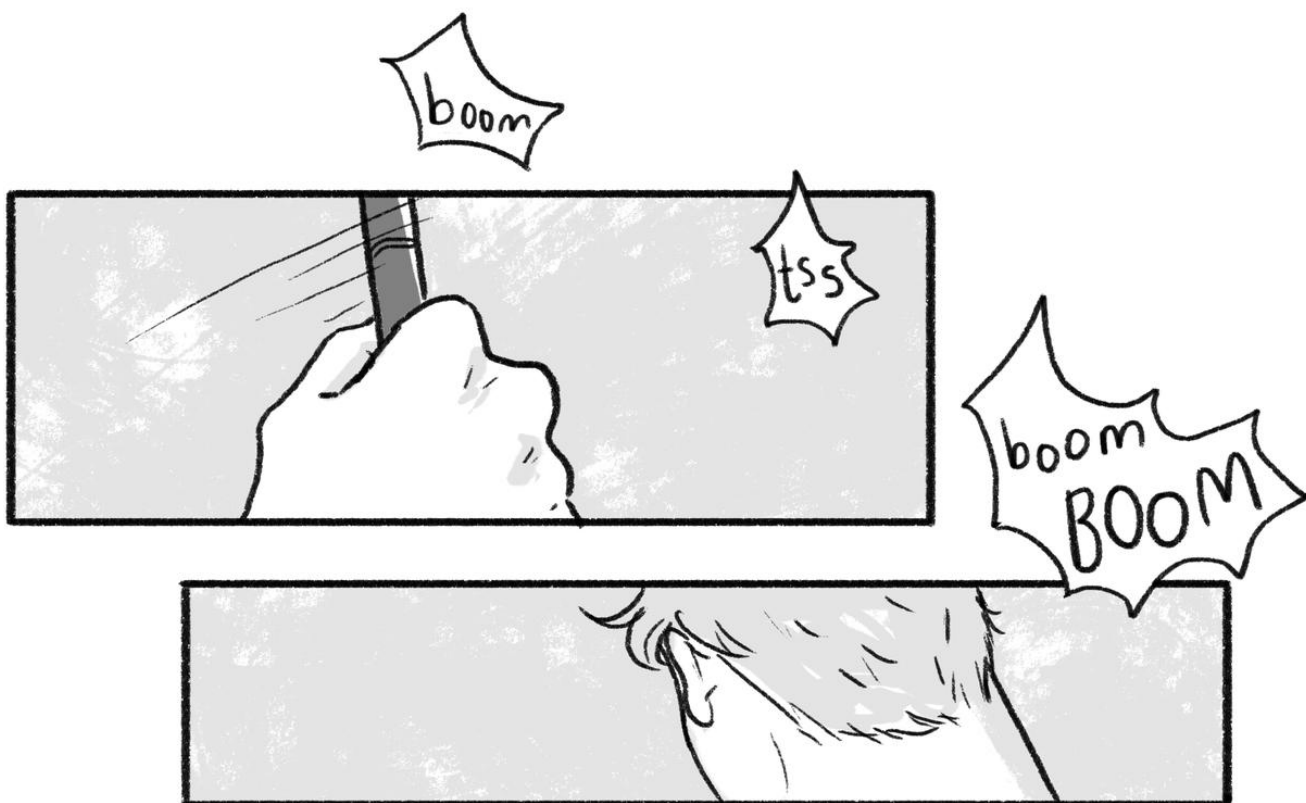


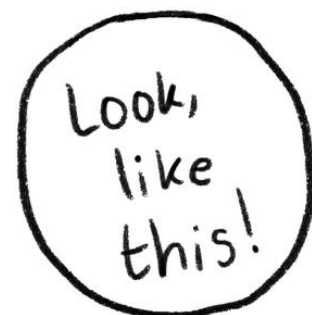
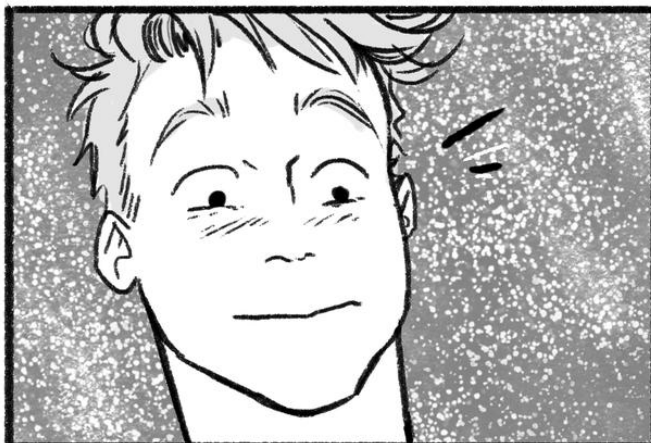


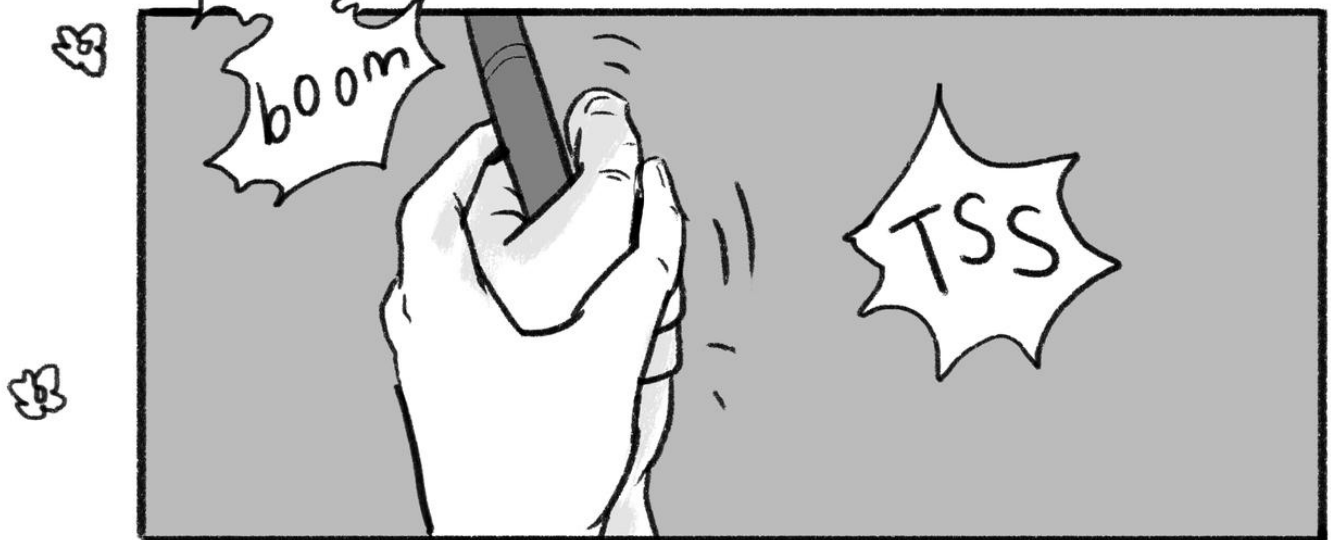
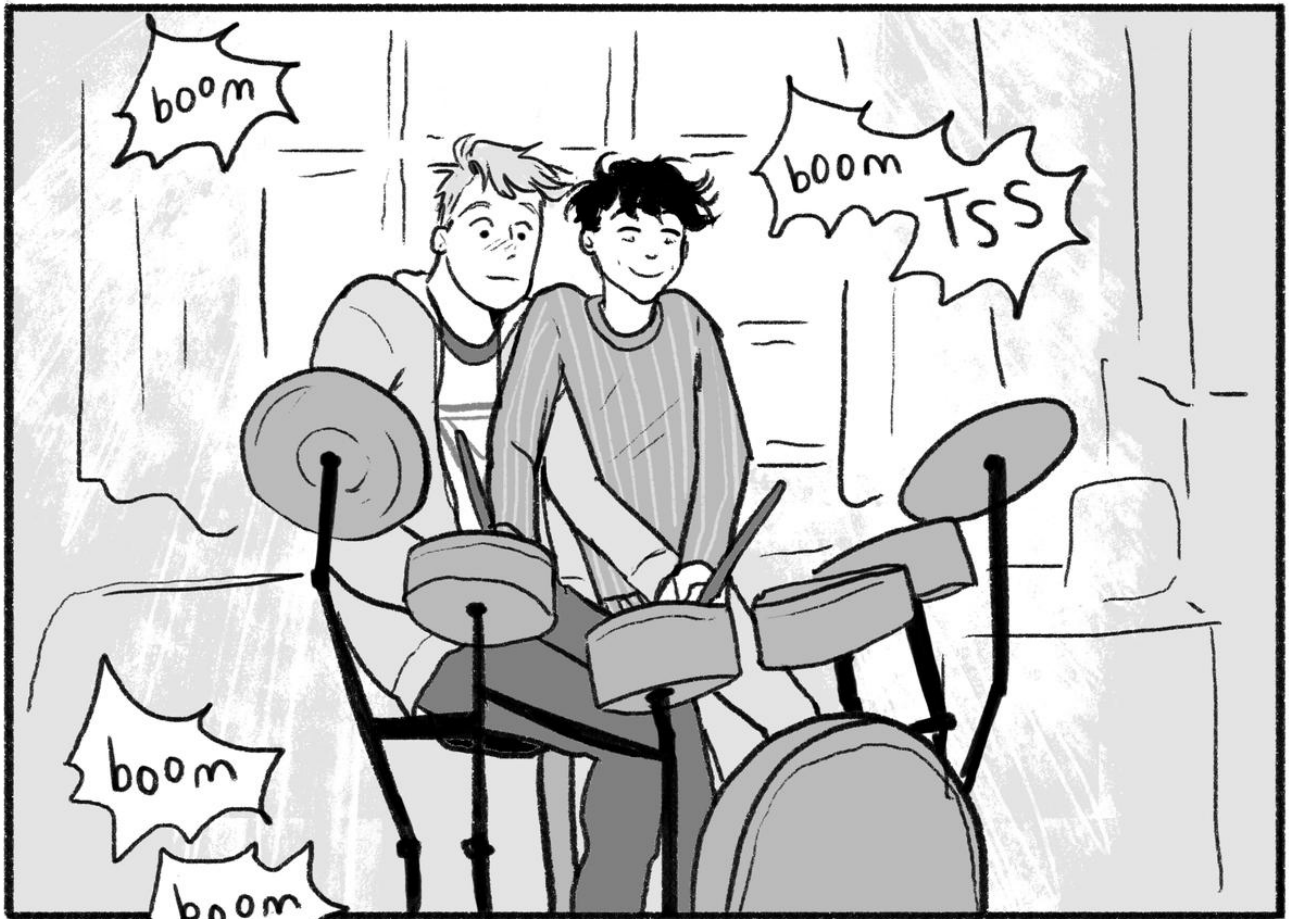
THE NEXT
SATURDAY









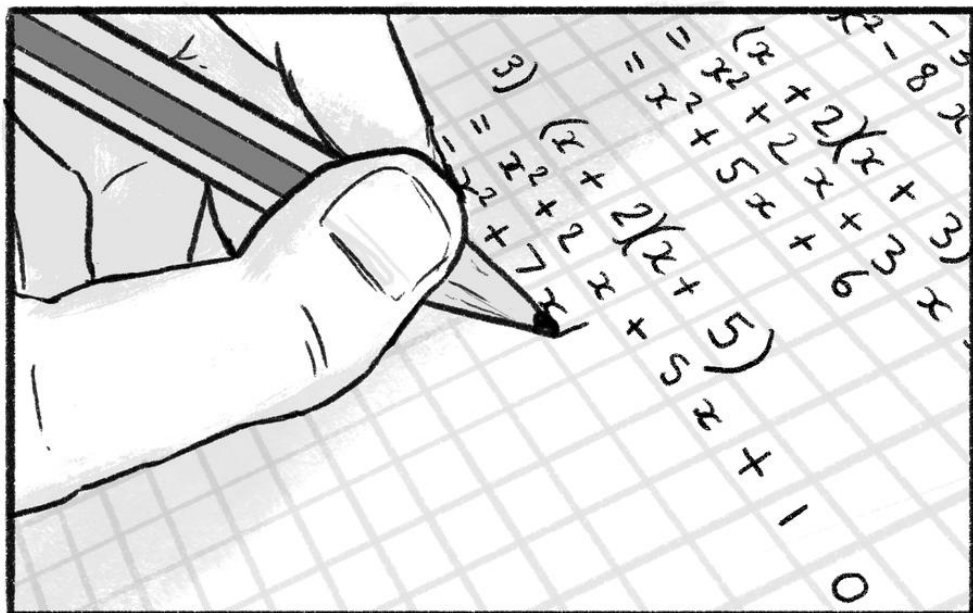






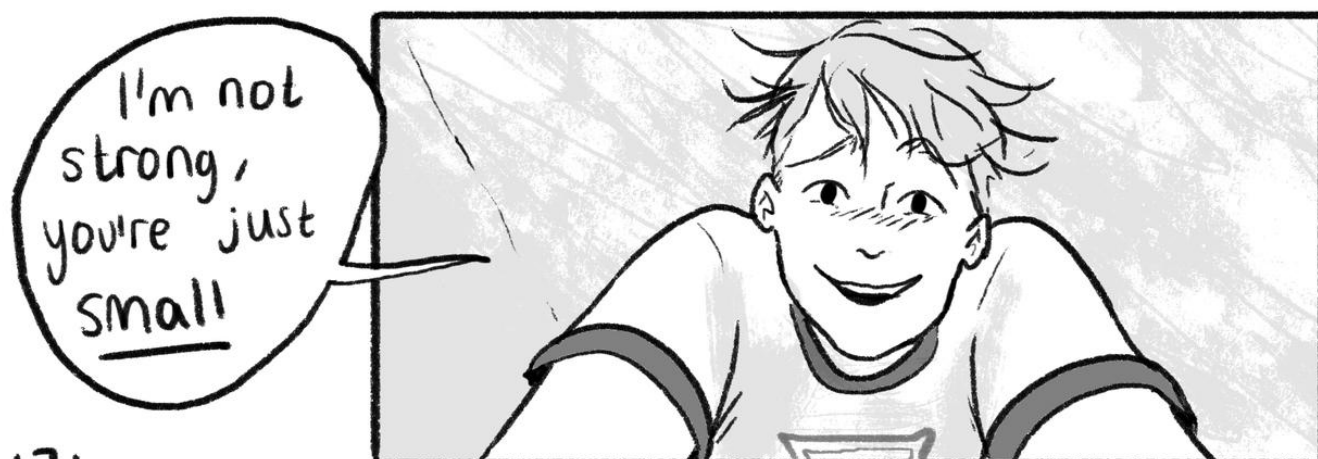
Charliiiiiie

Yeah?





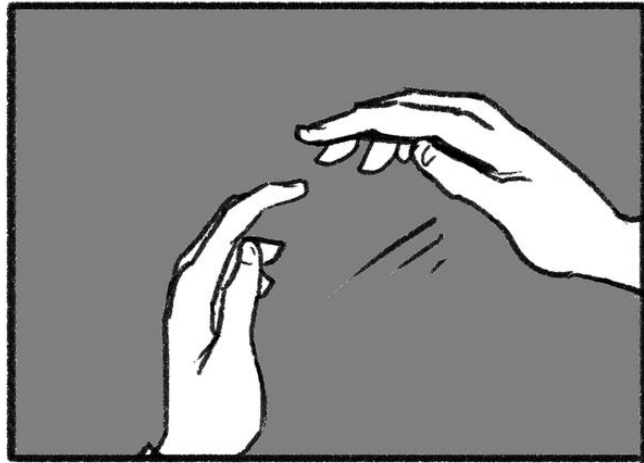






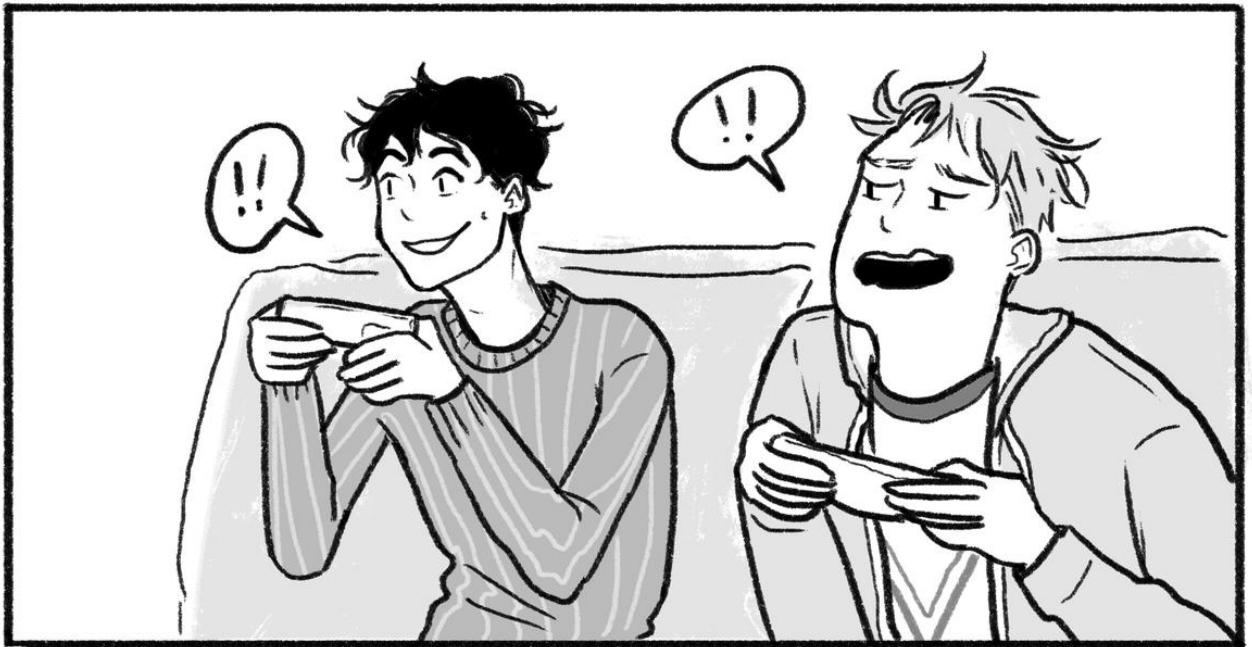
OKAY, okay, stop,
you win



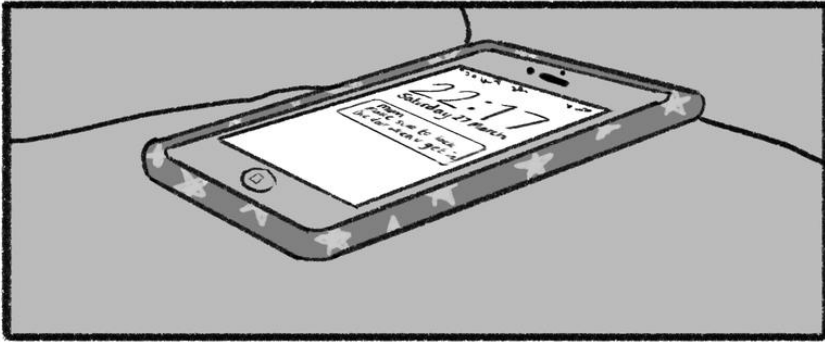


ROLL





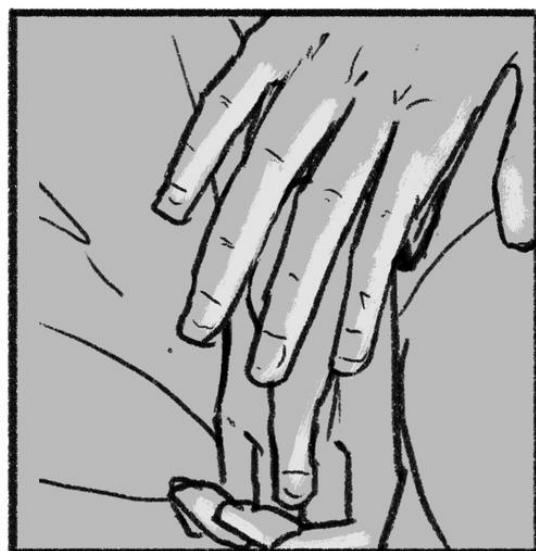
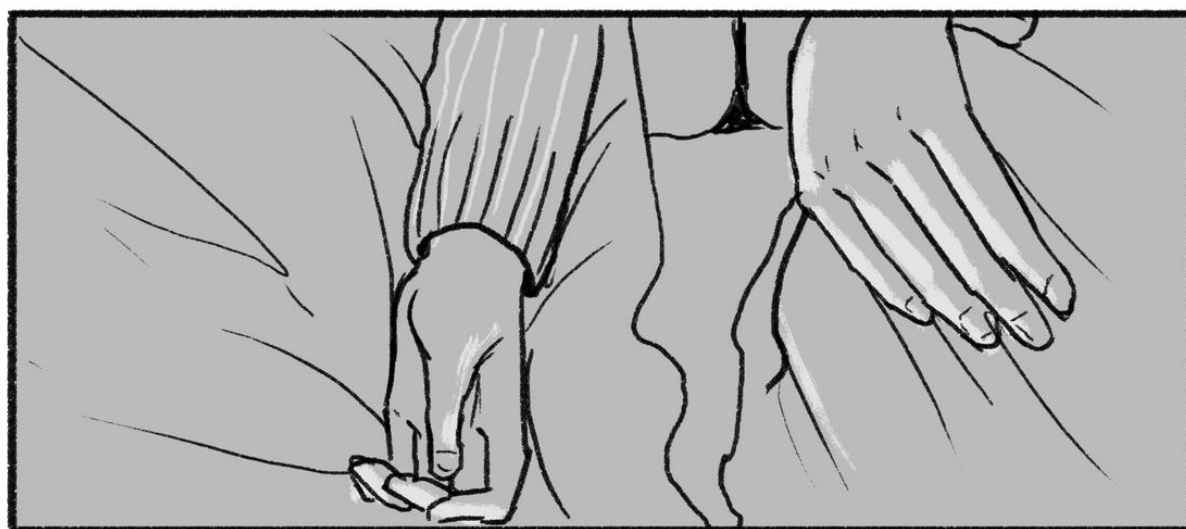


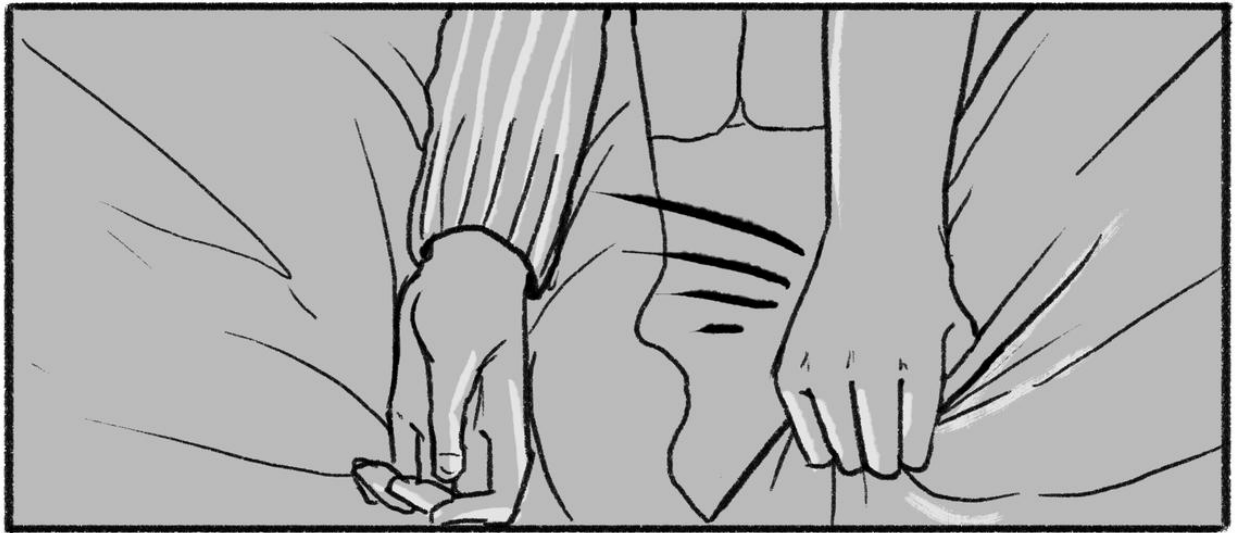
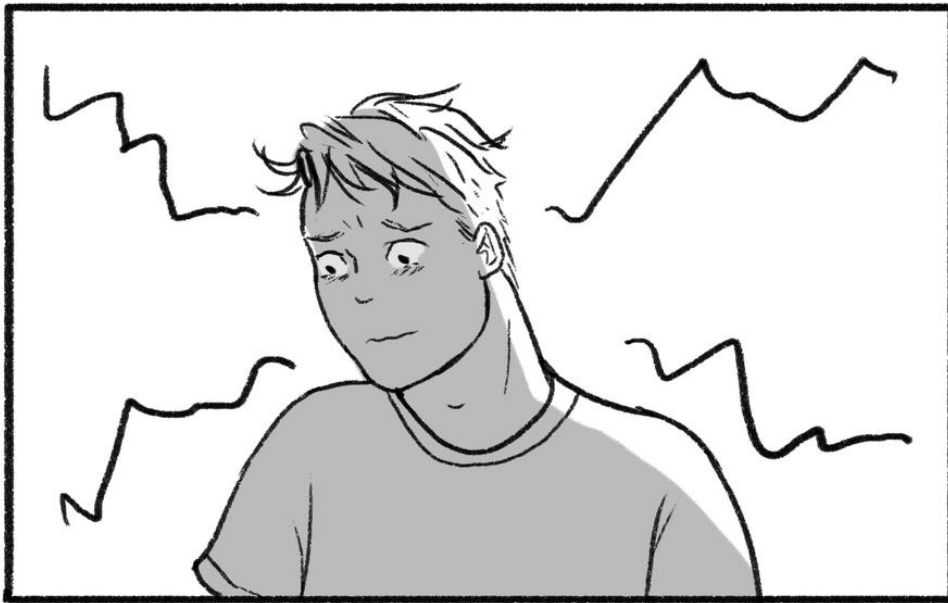


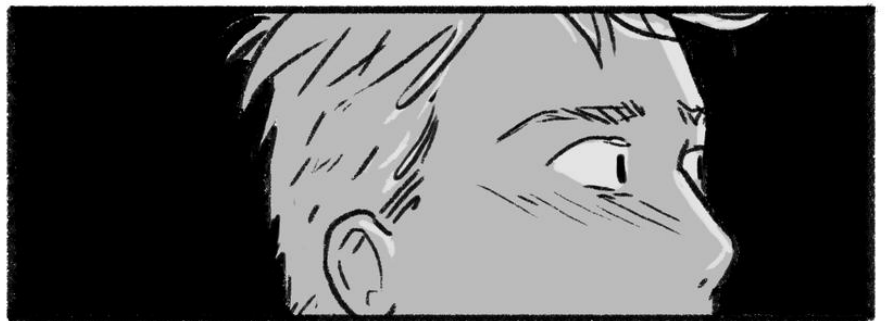


ZZZ







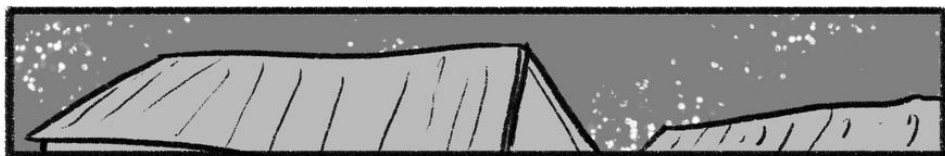














What is
happening
to me?

SHUT!



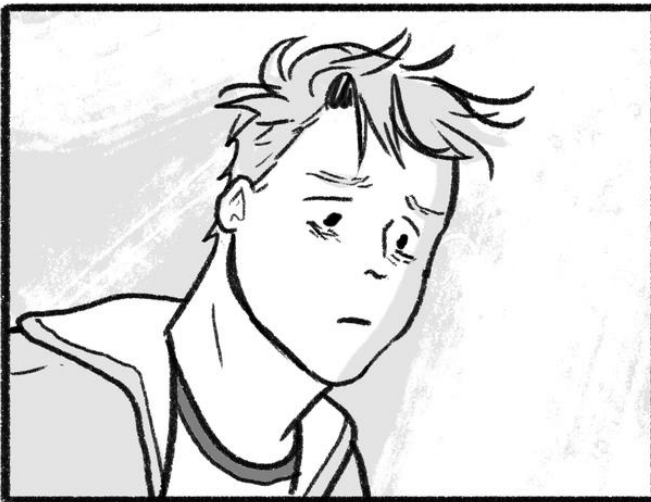
Nicky? Did
you have a
good day?

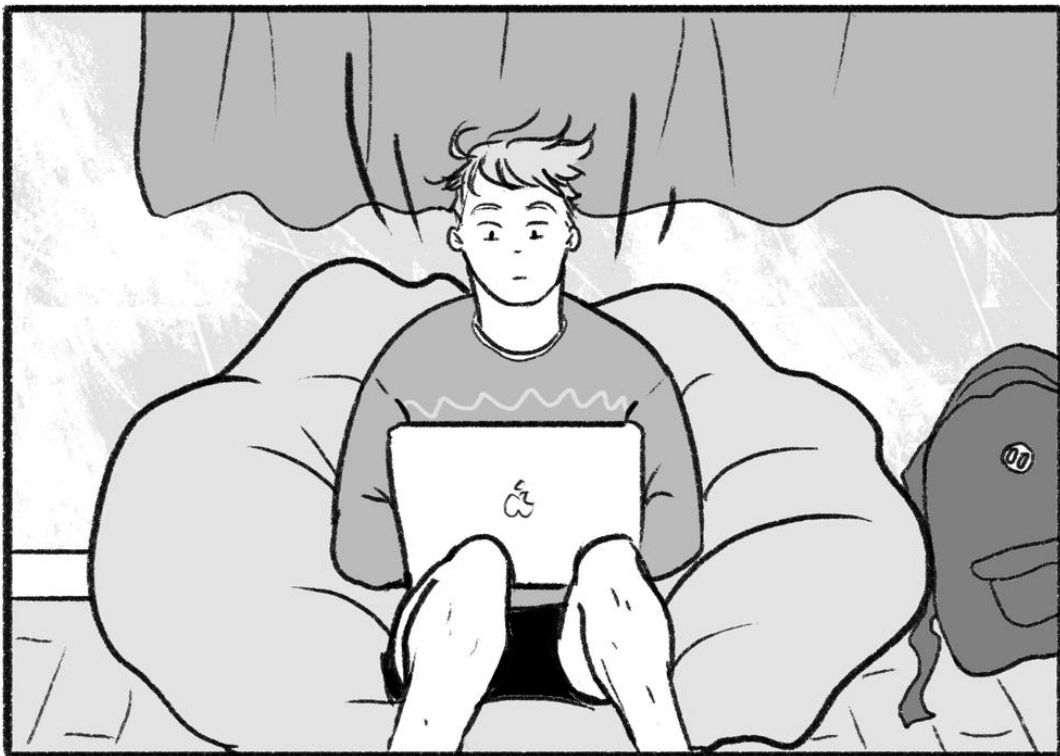
Yep.

...you okay?

Yep. Fine.

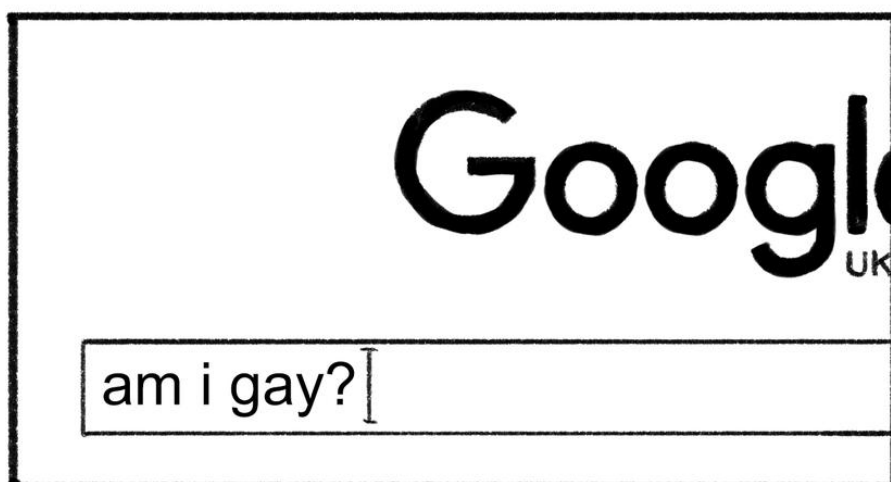
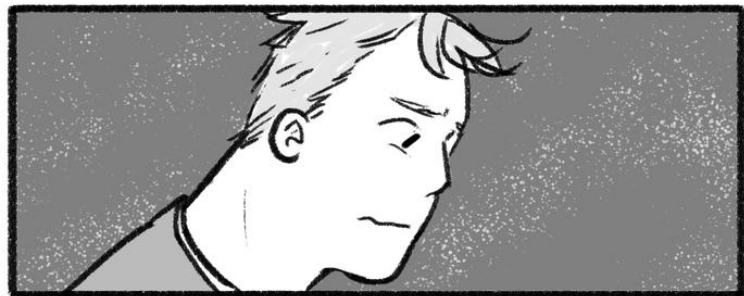
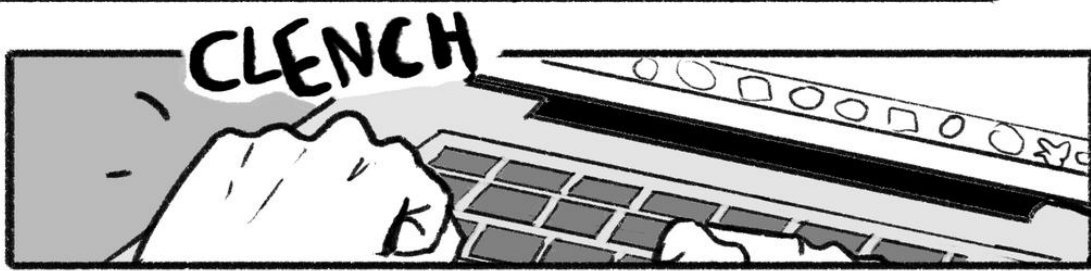
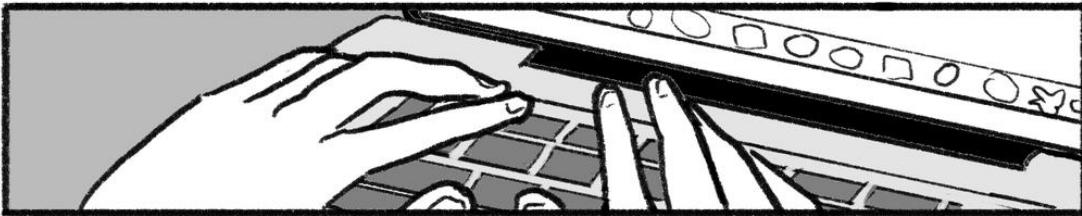






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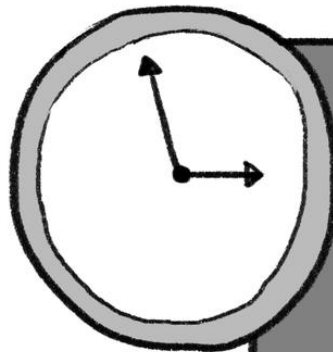
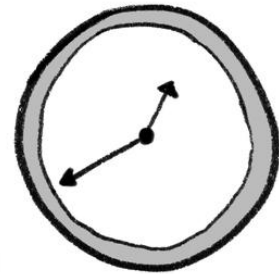
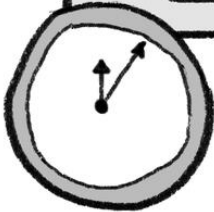
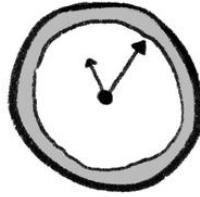
TAP

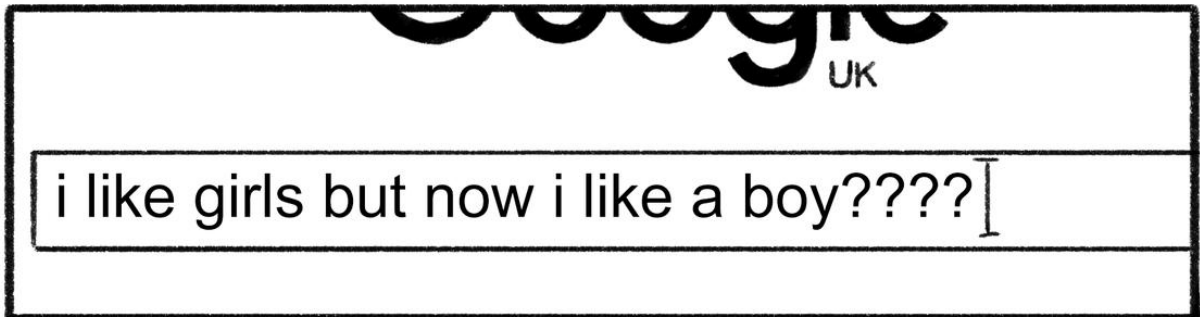




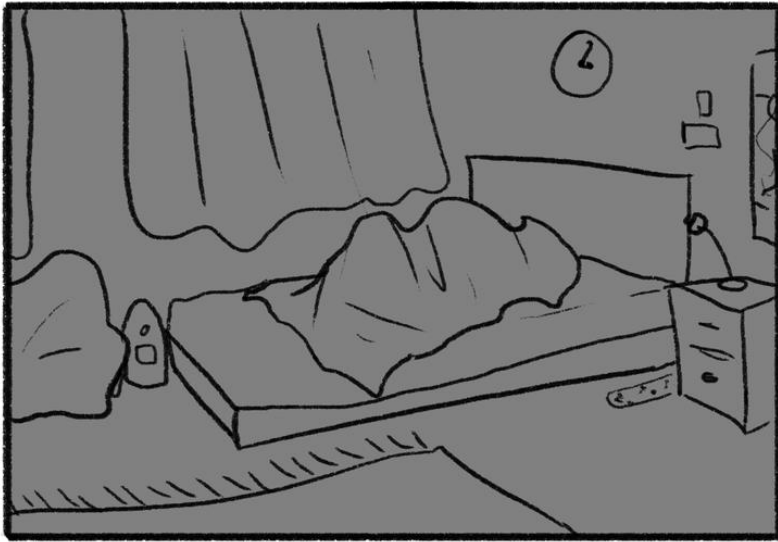
Google_{UK}

how to tell if you're gay









help
me...



APRIL
(TWO WEEKS LATER)





Hey Tao... so... about Nick Nelson

What??? Has something happened???

Well... I think he might maybe like me back

EXPLAIN.



Over the past two weeks during the Easter holidays we've hung out like almost EVERY DAY



He's a lot more... idk... physical? We hug now?

197



Sometimes I just catch him looking at me...

Look... Charlie... I didn't want to say anything but... I've asked around and I've heard Nick's had a crush on a girl called Tara Jones from Higgs school for, like, 3 years or something



PEEEP!



AMMAR
VISITORS

3	9
3	4

CHARLIE!!



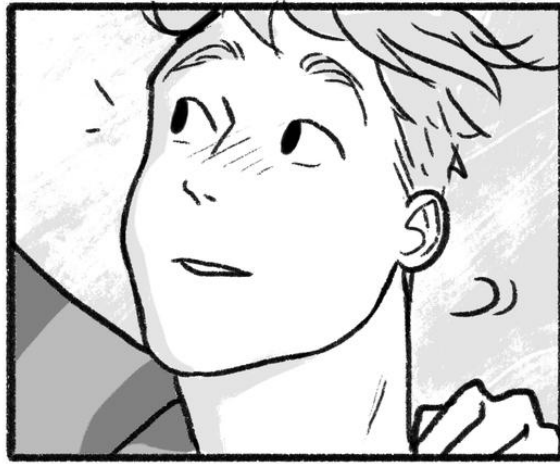






... Charlie... I didn't
... I've asked around
a crush on a girl ca
ggs school for, like,





30 MINS LATER...





So Nick has a crush on Charlie, right?



We've all been thinking it!!

203



They do seem really close



But Nick's not gay, is he?

Well, I guess we don't know

He doesn't look gay. And didn't he have a crush on that girl Tara Jones?



MISS SINGH
(P.E. TEACHER
AND COACH)

You can't tell whether people are gay by what they look like.

And gay or straight aren't the only two options.

Anyway, it's very rude to speculate about people's sexuality.



Go home, lads.





↳ ↻

↳

↳

↳

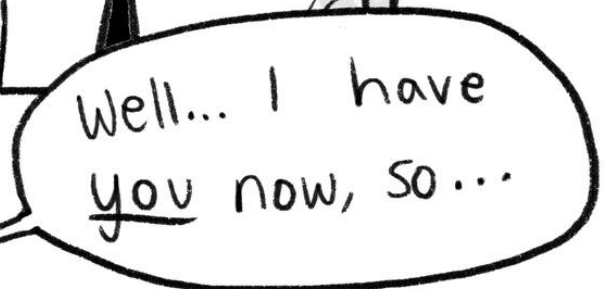
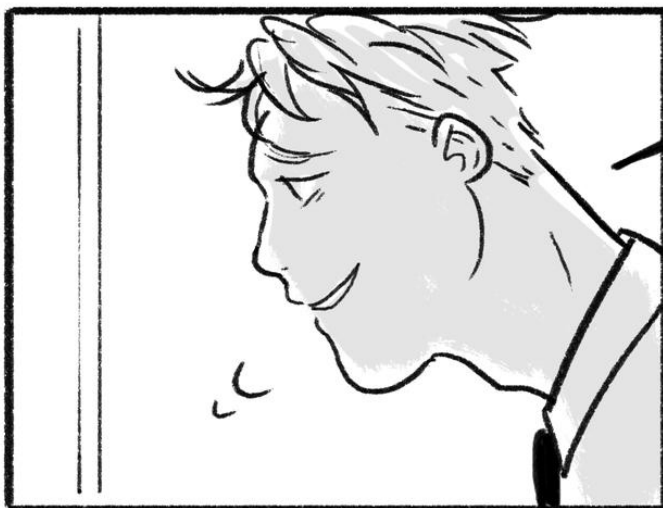
↳

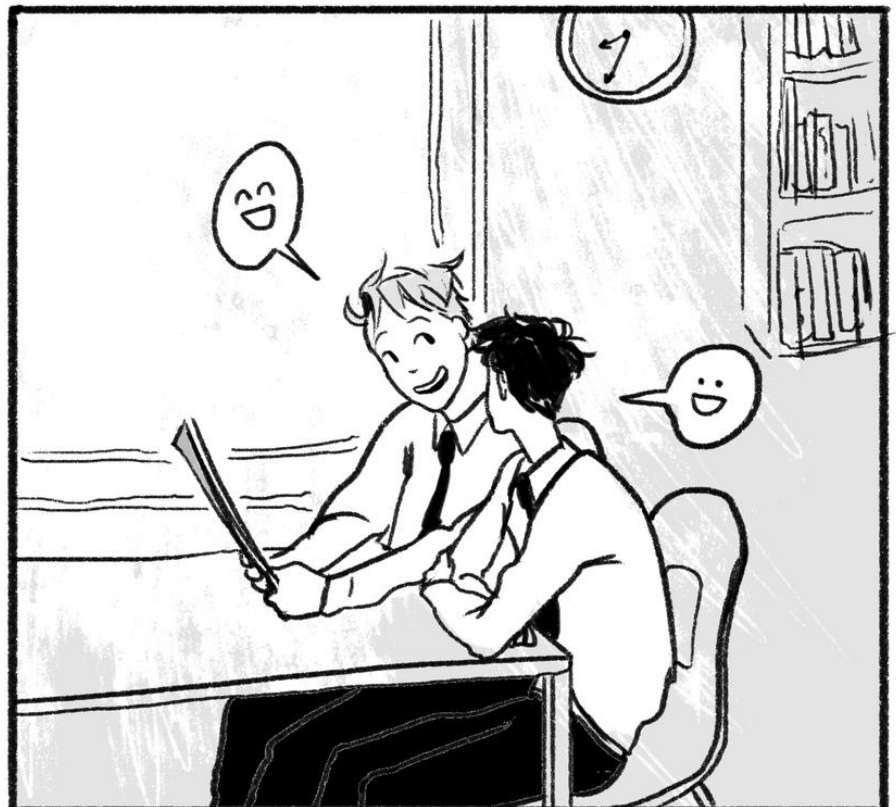
↳

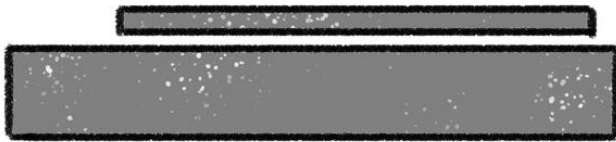
↳



Are you going to Harry Greene's party on Saturday?



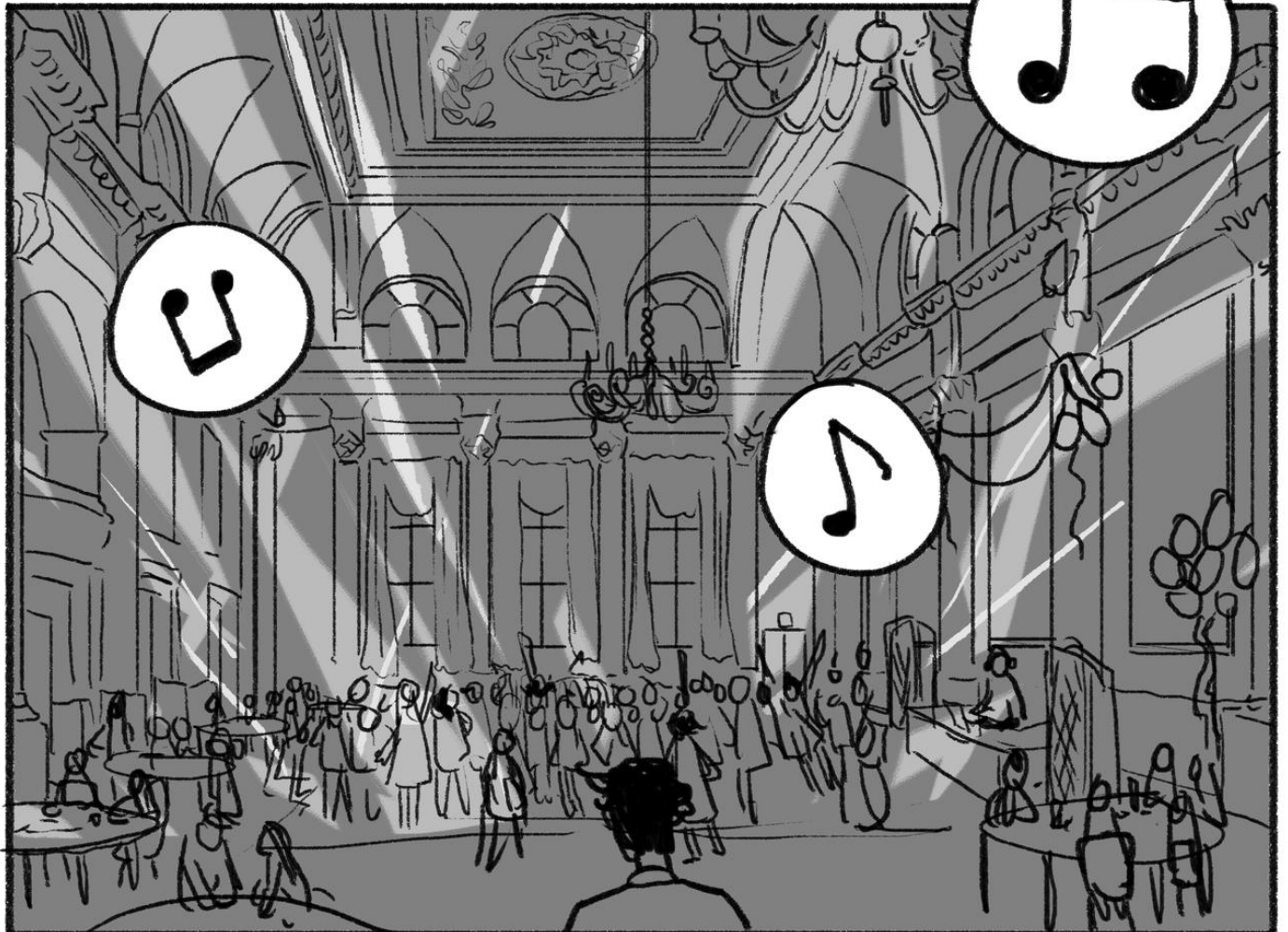








210



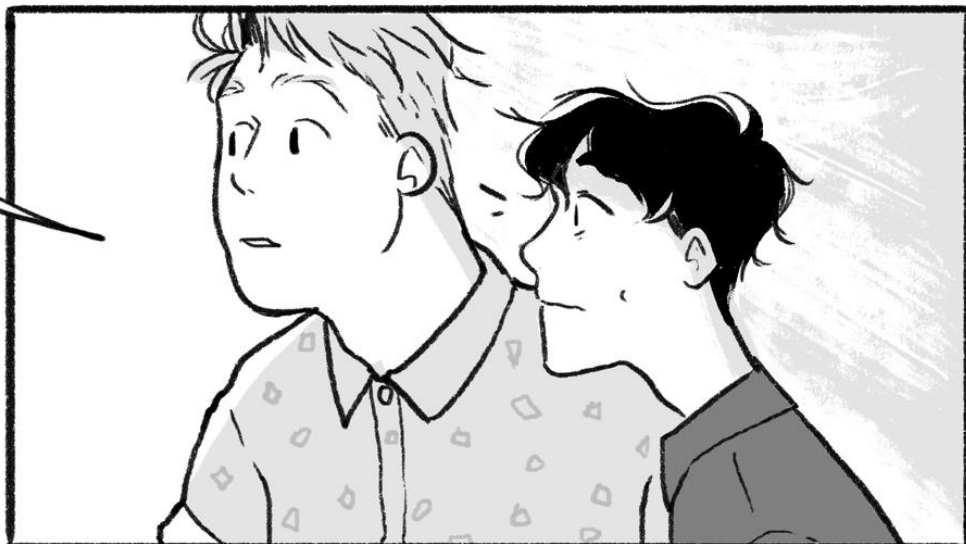








Wh-
what?



Remember her?
The girl you had
a crush on all
through Year
7 and 8?



The one you
KISSED at
the Year 8
Higgs-Truham
disco?



Well, now's
your second
chance.

RIGHT,
CHARLIE?





Plus, she's really hot now



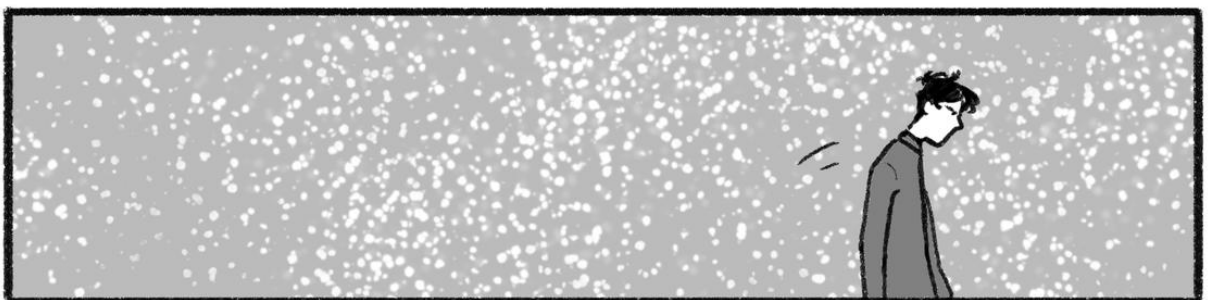
HEY, GIRLS!

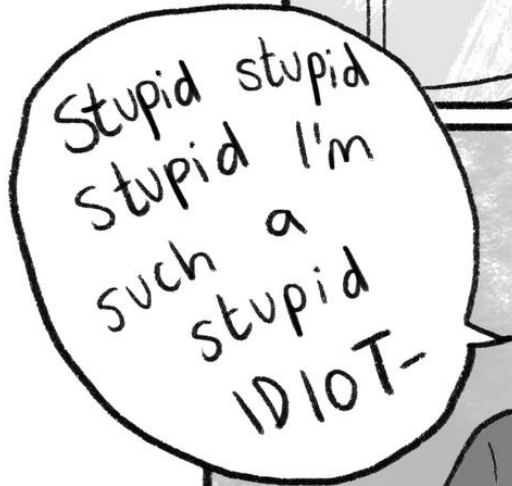




You remember Nick Nelson, right?







219





Anyway,

Sorry about this...
Harry sort of dragged
me over here



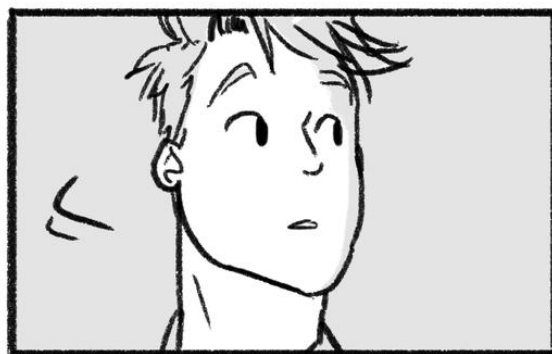
It's fine, I
know what
he's like!



And I think he must be one of the only people who doesn't know I'm gay



Haha, you didn't know either? That's my girlfriend over there.

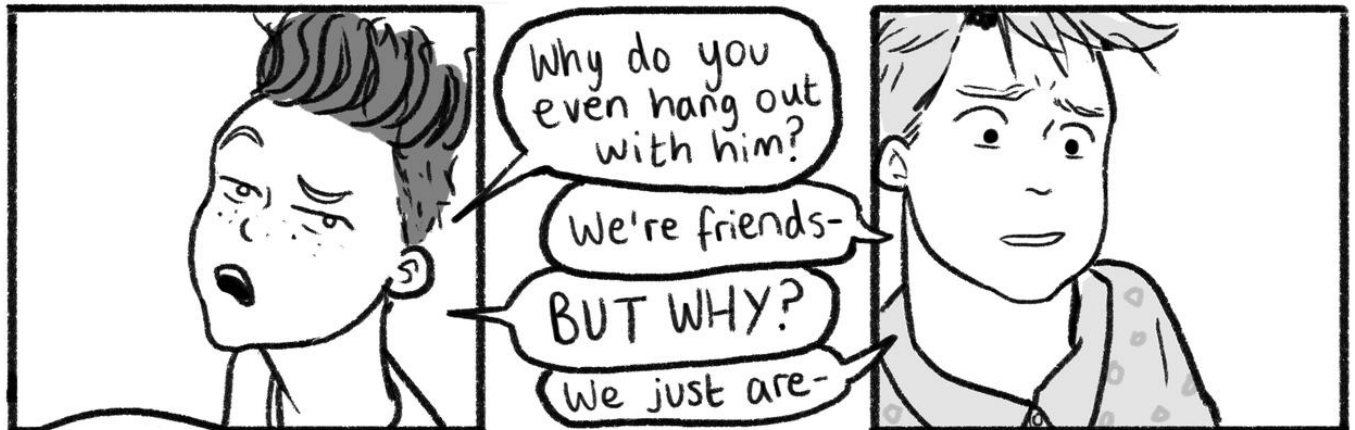


So... I heard you've been hanging out with Charlie Spring a lot recently...

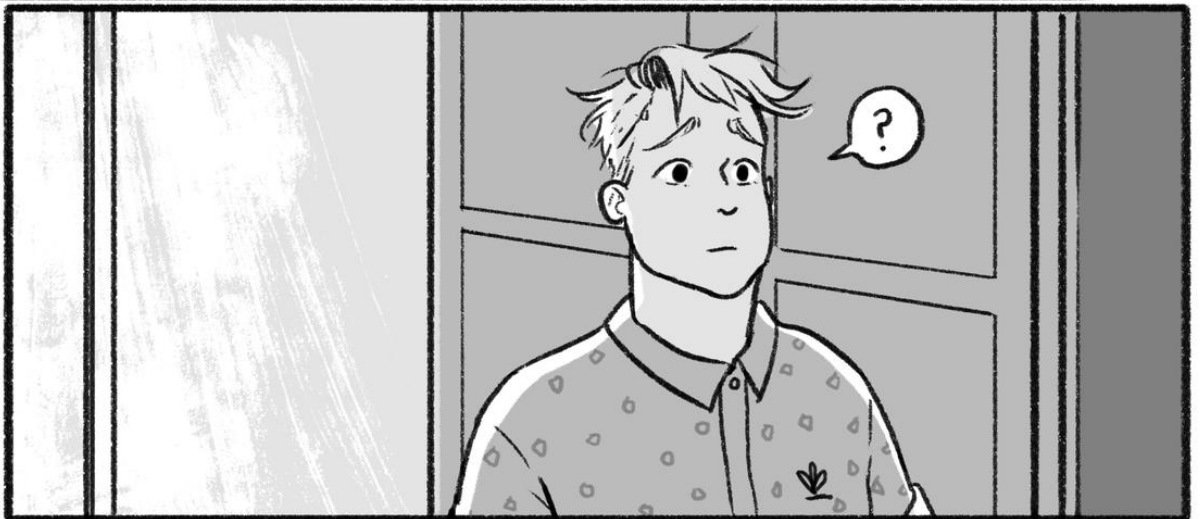
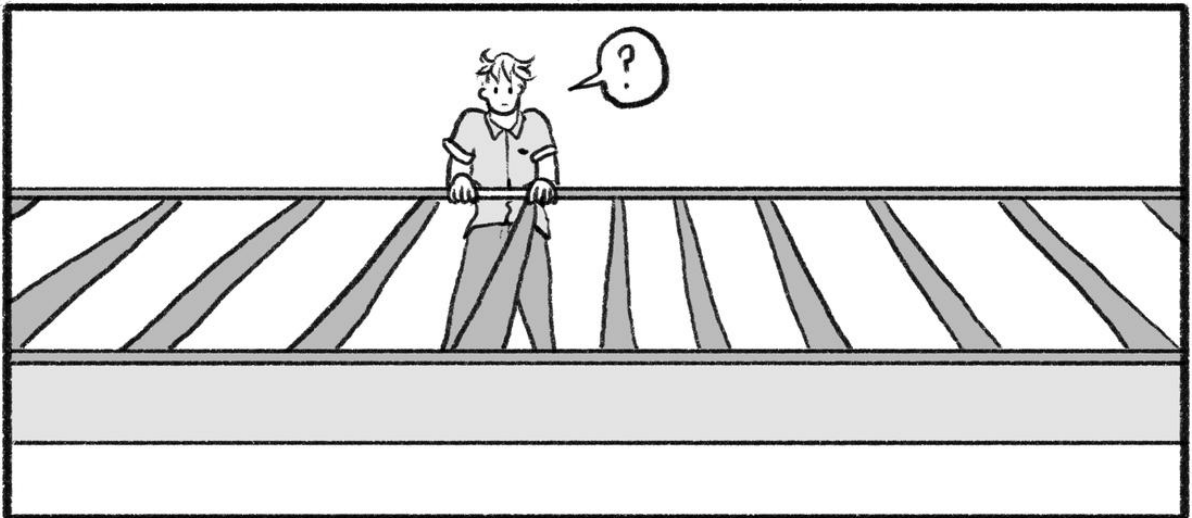
Is that... I mean... are you just friends, or... ?



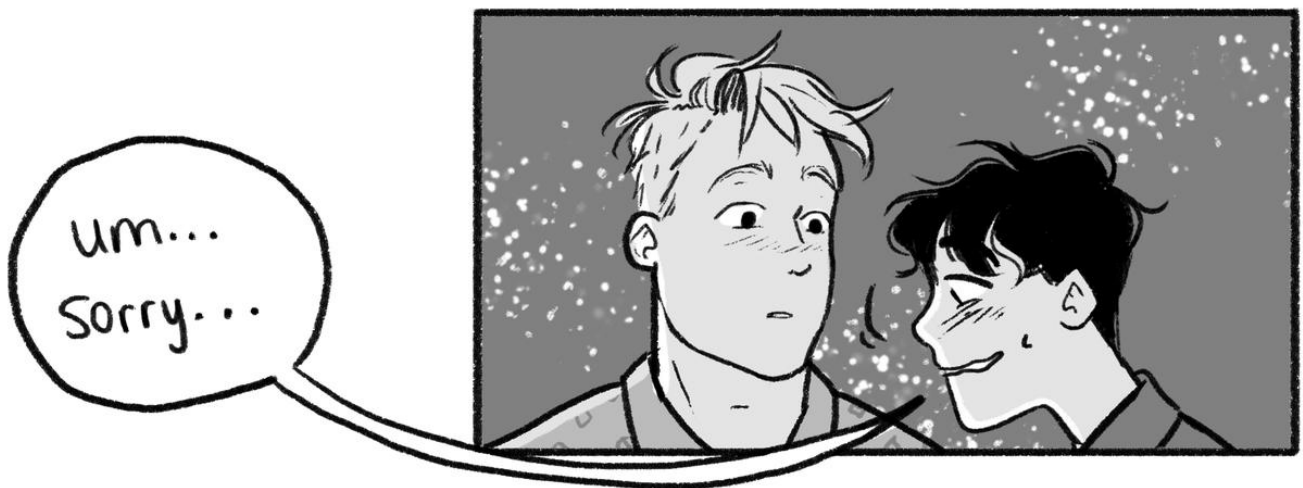










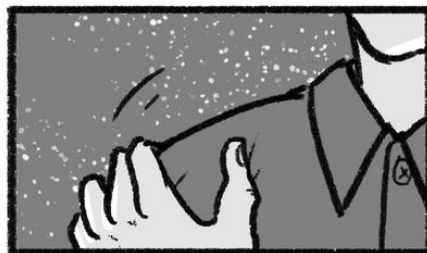
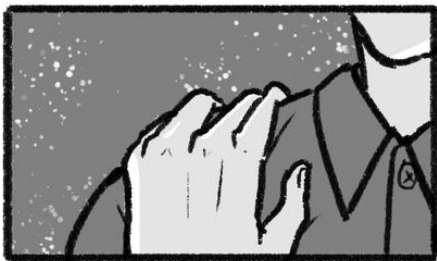




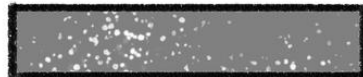


SHIT.
Are you
okay?

y-yeah,
I mean...
I dealt
with it.



He... er...
he tried to
apologise,
but...



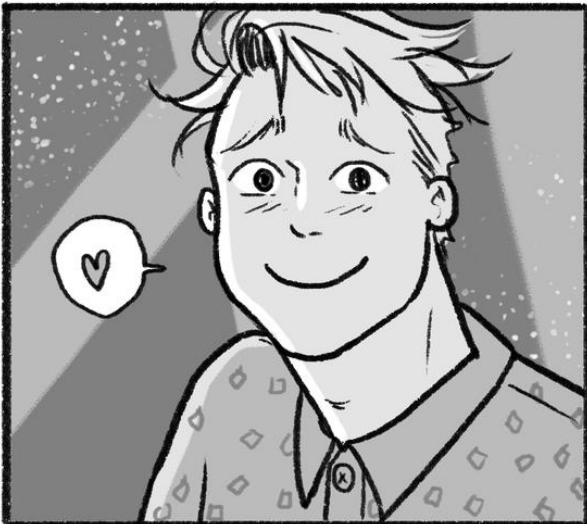


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Then he just
walked off,
so...

Yeah, I think
he got the
message this
time

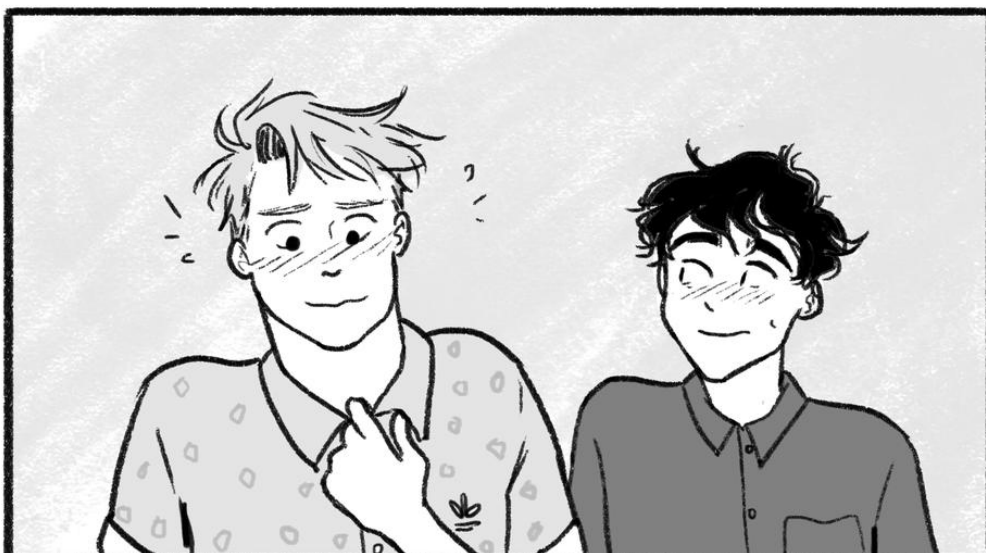






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I'll race you!



To where!?

Anywhere!

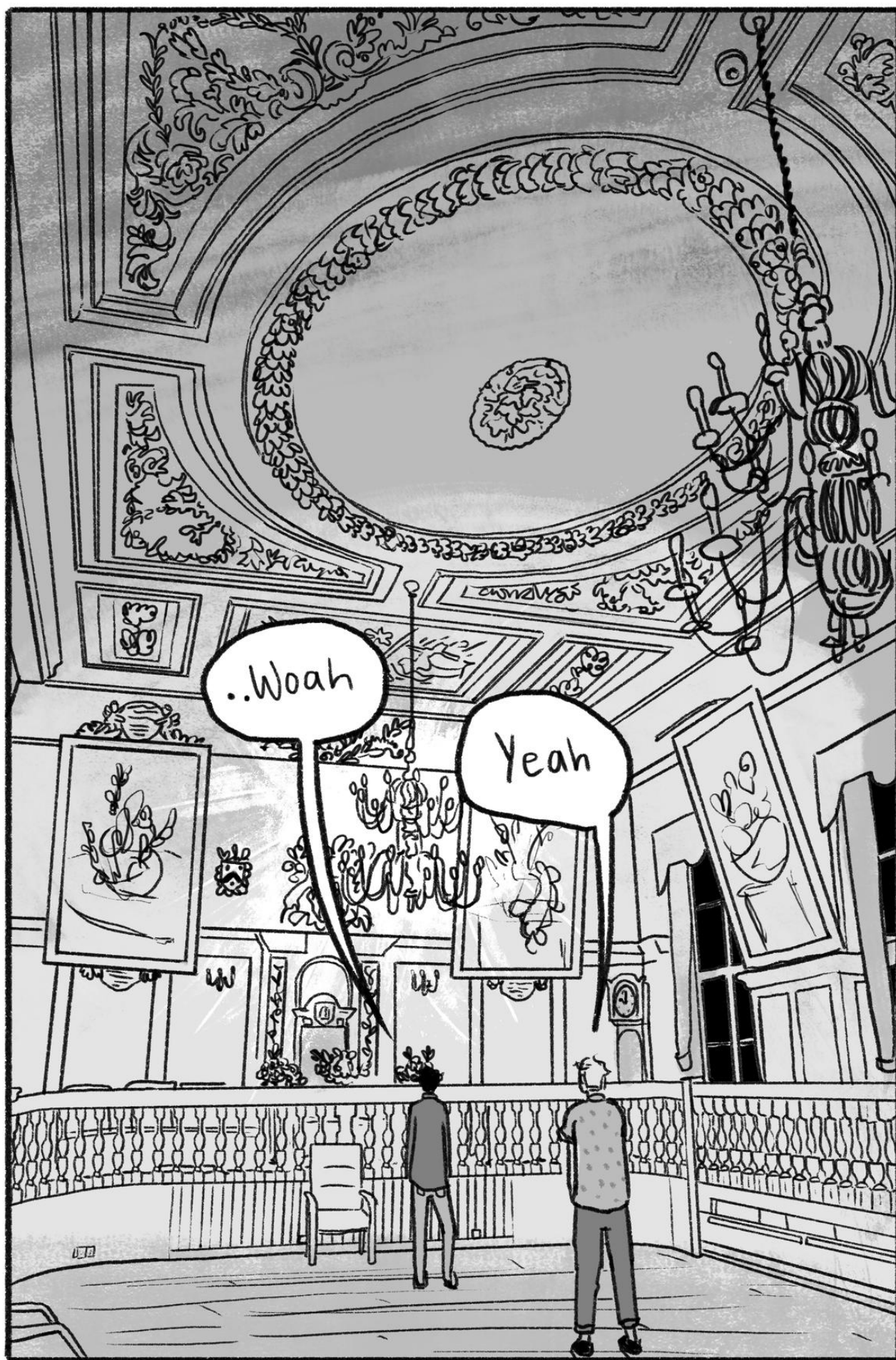


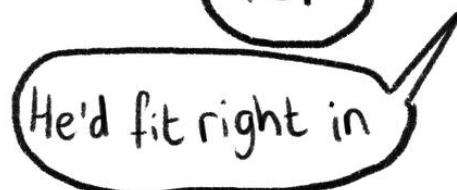
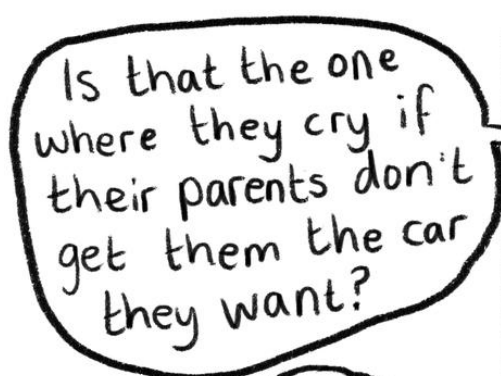
Unfair!

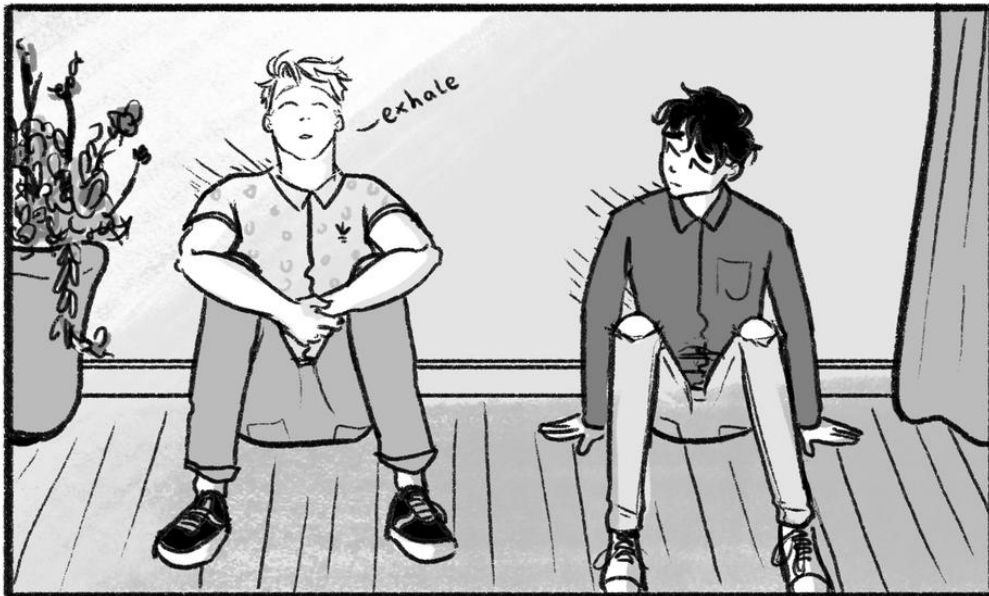
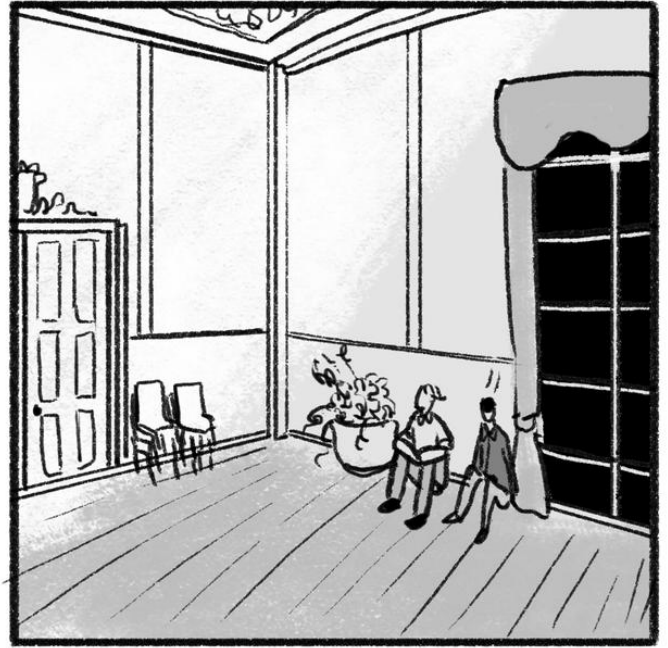
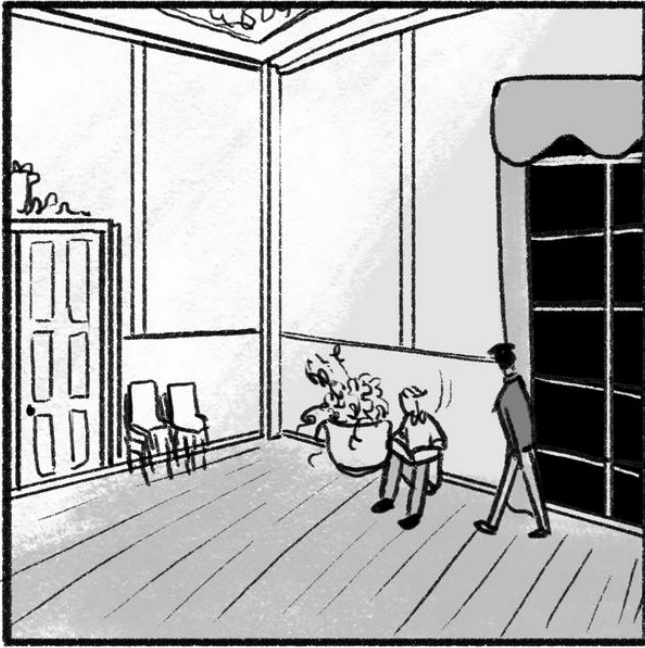
You're way faster than me!











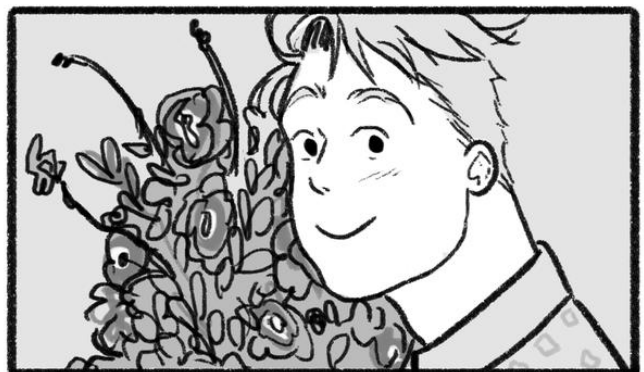


NO! No, definitely not!

We... we kissed at a party when we were like 13 and I liked her at the time but I've honestly barely thought about her since then and I DEFINITELY don't like her that way anymore!



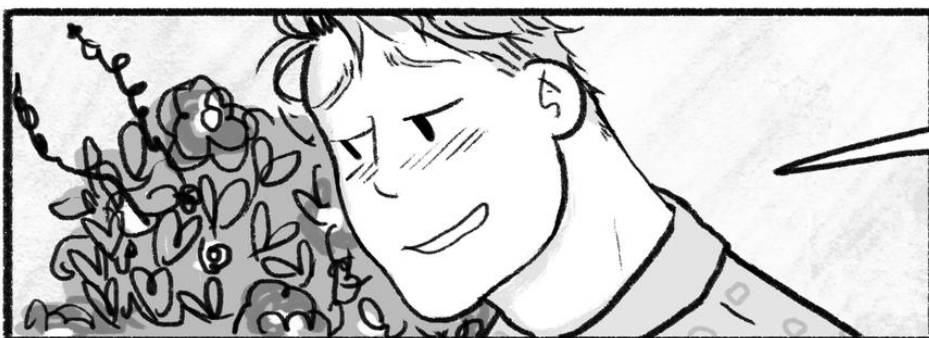
Ah...
Okay...



Um...
So...



... you don't
have a crush
on anyone
at the
moment?



Well... I
didn't say
THAT...



but I've asked around
had a crush on a girl called
Higgs school for like 3 years

Haha...
what's
she
like,
then?

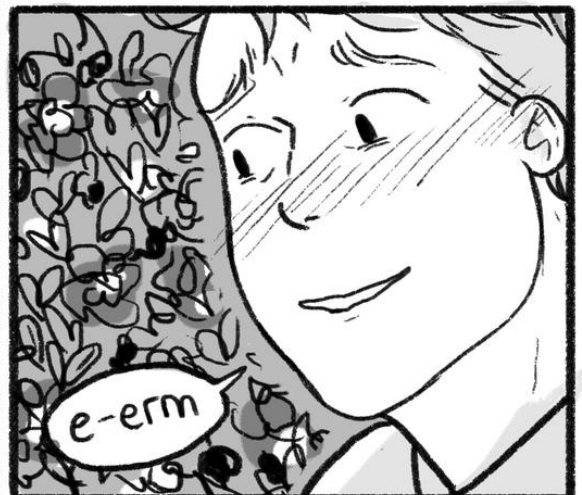
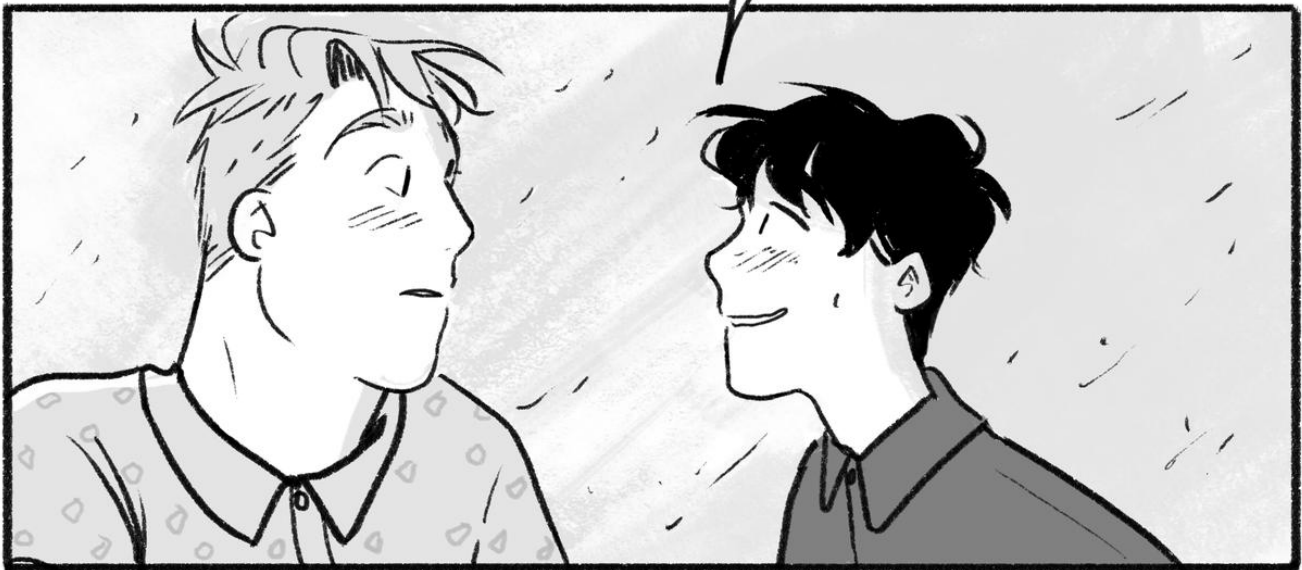


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not a girl?



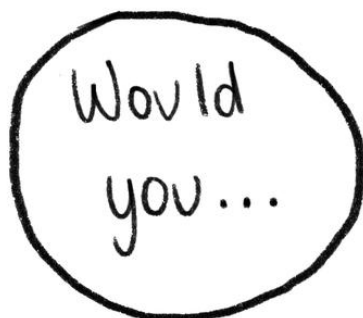


Would you...

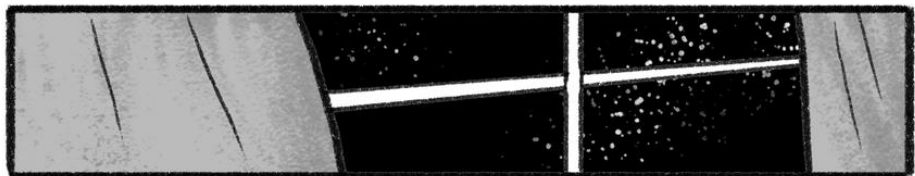
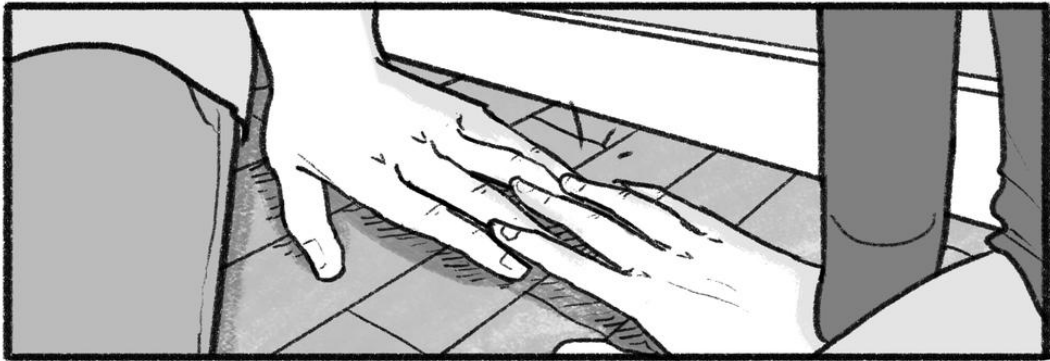


...go out with someone who wasn't a girl?





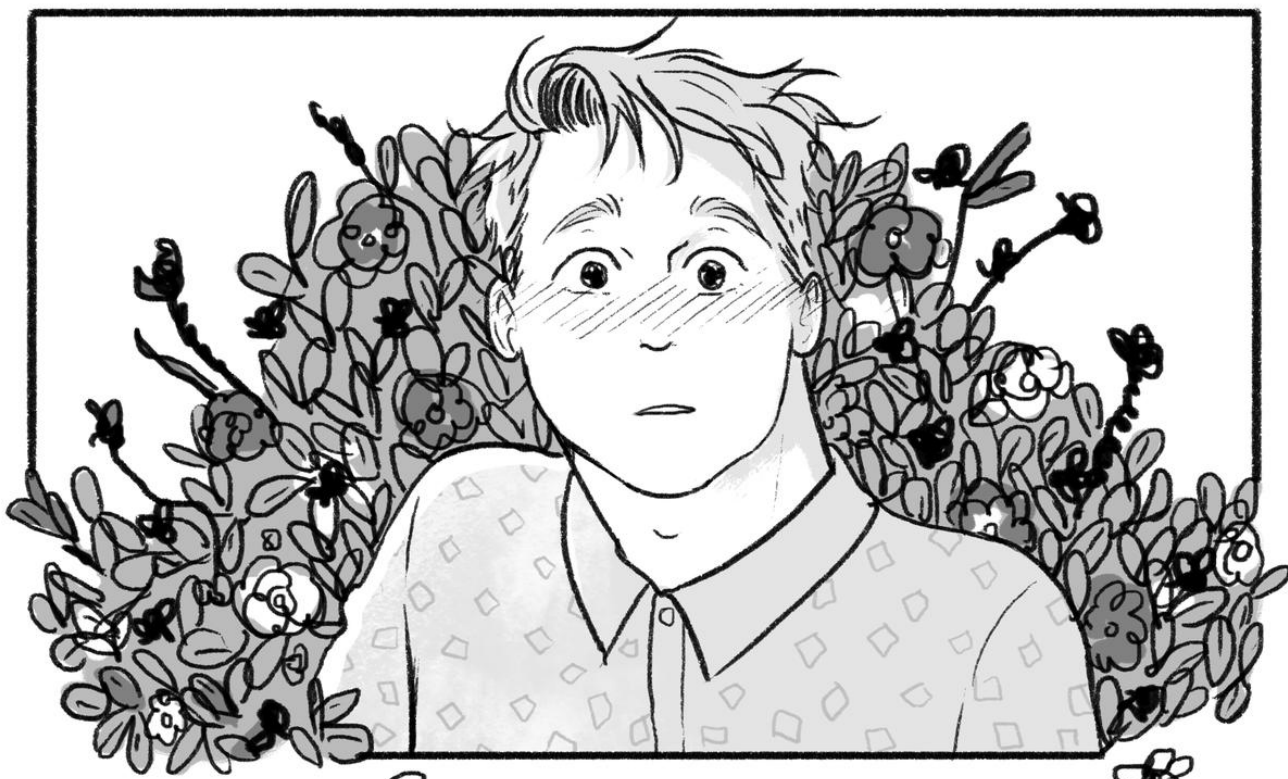




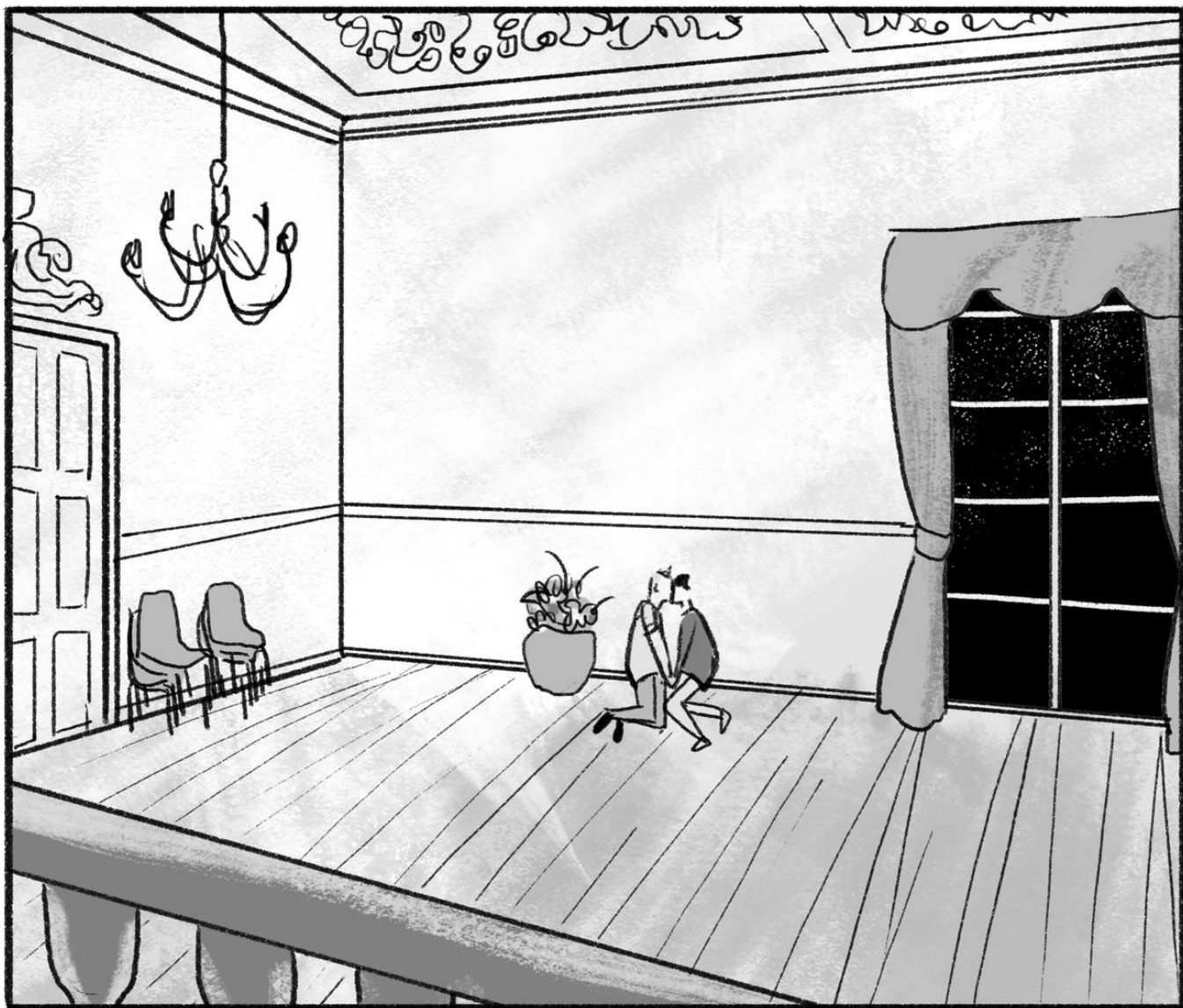
Would
you

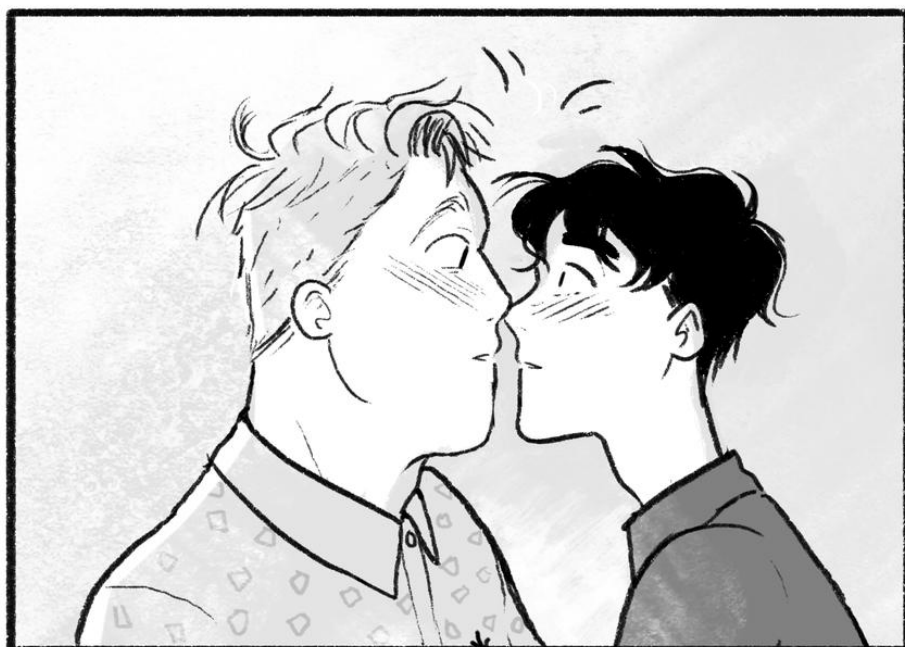
Kiss
me?









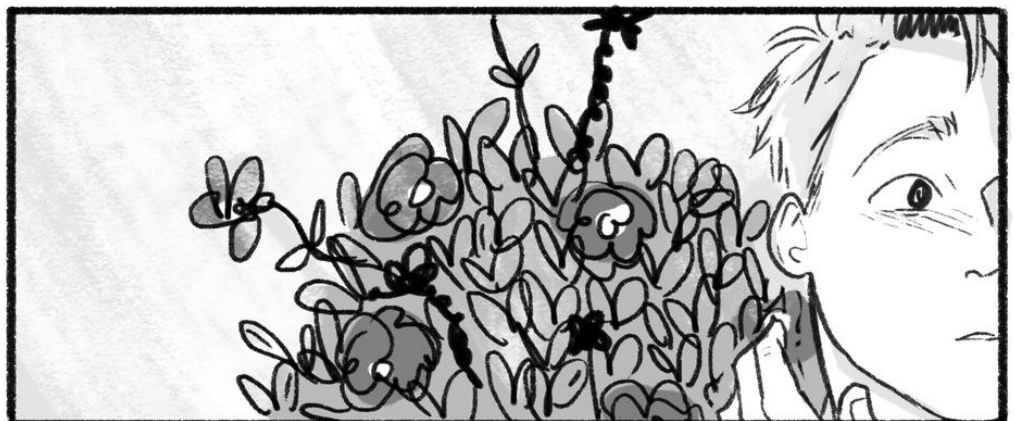












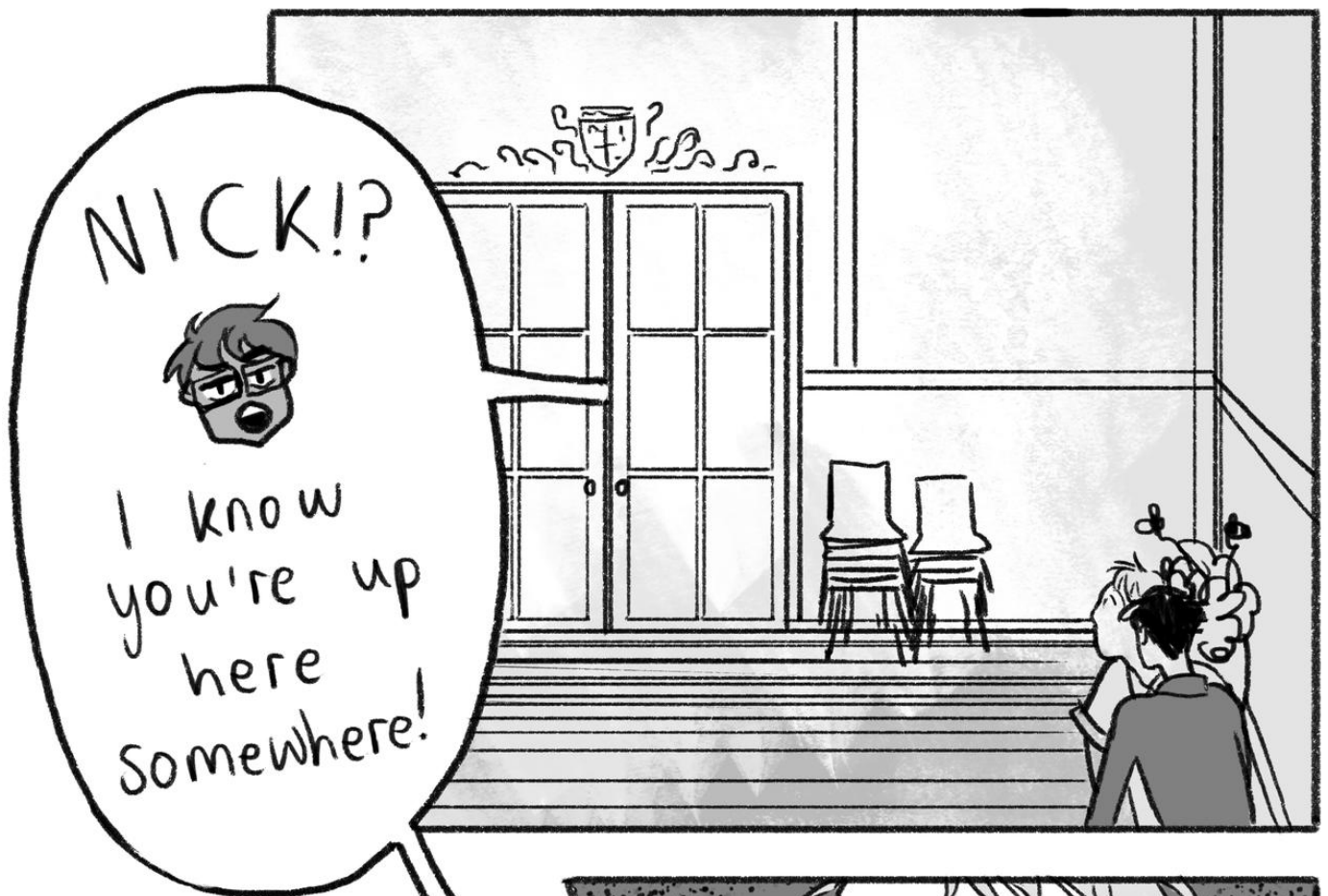


I-



Nick?
Are you
up here?



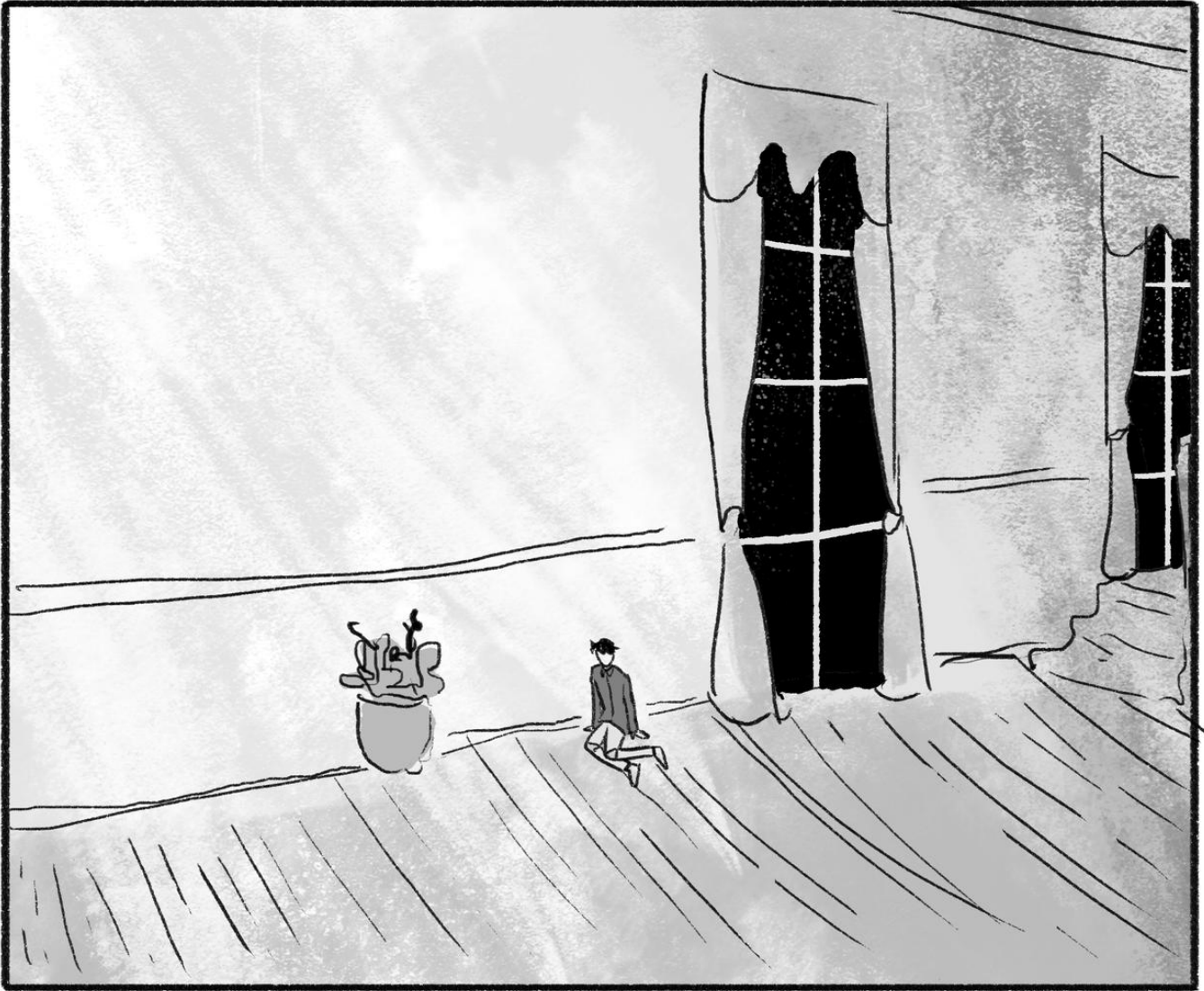






SHUT





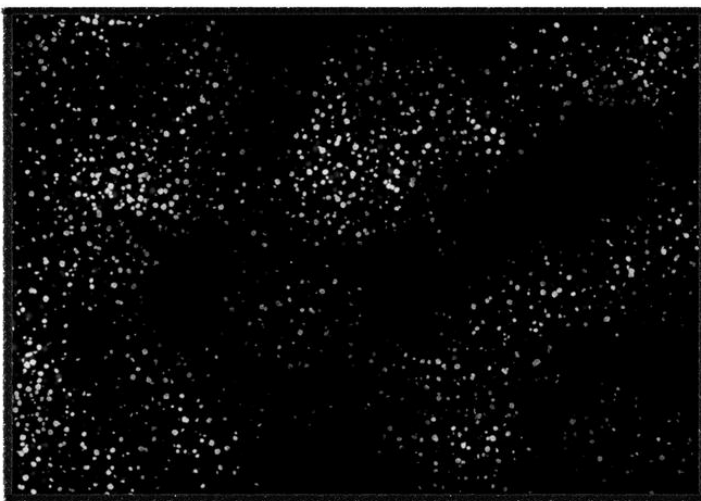


I'm
sorry





I'm
sorry



I'm
sorry